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Friends of the University of Hartford Libraries
Mortensen Library
200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

To:

“American Originals” to visit University of Hartford

Thousands are expected to visit the University of Hartford when 20 cases of original documents and artifacts from American history arrive on campus in February 2004. The University of Hartford is one of only eight venues nationwide to host “American Originals: Treasures from the National Archives,” and the only location in New England where visitors can see the exhibition.

“American Originals” will be open to the public from Friday, February 6, 2004 through Sunday, May 16, 2004, at the University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford. United Technologies Corporation in Hartford is the major underwriter of the exhibition.

Among the documents are the Louisiana Purchase Treaty of 1803, providing for a land purchase of 828,000 square miles for $15 million; pages from John F. Kennedy’s handwritten draft of his 1961 inaugural address; an order to arrest Wyatt Earp for “larceny in the Indian Country”; and a patent application from Thomas Edison.

The highlight of the exhibition will be a special four-day public display of pages from the original Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 that announced President Lincoln’s proclamation to free the slaves. Because of their fragility, these pages can be displayed only from Thursday, March 25, through Sunday, March 28, but the remainder of the exhibition will be open to the public through May 16.

Other display items that are of special interest in Connecticut include testimony from Bahoo, an Amistad African, to the circuit court in Hartford; and a deposition signed by Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom’s Cabin, when she sued the publisher of a German-language newspaper for publishing her work without paying royalties.

“American Originals” was created by the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC and The Foundation for the National Archives, which preserves and makes available to the public those records of the US government that have permanent value. The documents and artifacts in “American Originals” were selected from the large number of items that the Archives holds in trust for the American people. Hours for the exhibition will be Tuesday through Sunday, 10am to 5pm.

A complementary exhibit titled “Connecticut Originals” will run concurrently and showcase items that are embedded in Connecticut history. For more information on the exhibition, call (860) 768-4089.
The phone in my office rang late last Friday after-
noon and I was delighted (not to say relieved since
it had been a hectic week) to hear Amy’s voice on
the other end. Being the best of friends for several
years now we eschewed the usual pleasantries and
got quickly to the point of the call. “I bought it.” She
uttered with a tone of voice approximating an excited
stage whisper. She too is a librarian now, living
and working in her home town of Cleveland, Ohio,
and like myself still at work that Friday. Hence
the hushed tones. “It.” I thought to myself quickly flipp-
ing through the mental Rolodex. She did buy a new
car last year, so I knew that wasn’t the “it”. Like me, Amy
is an inveterate shopper and while she lived in
Hartford we would typically be found haunting
the dimly lit corridors of Westfarms Mall in
search of the perfect pair of espadrilles, even
(and especially) on a sunny Saturday.

Therefore, it was entirely plausible that the
“it” was in fact the Kate Spade bag she’d been lust-
ing after. You see Amy, in addition to her characteris-
tic intelligence, wit, and talent, is a fashionista par
excellence. Suffice it to say, her eventual reply after declaring my
ignorance of her purchase came as a
shock. “The librarian action figure,”
she exclaimed with the sort of glee ordinarily
reserved for lottery winners or death
sentence sentencees.

You may see it for yourself by typing “librarian
action figure” into Google or your favorite search
engine. Yes, the humble librarian has made it into
the pantheon of action figures, proudly taking her
place among the famous likenesses of Batman and the
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles! However, in my
opinion it is the engineering genius of the “amazing
push button shushing action” that sets her apart
from her brethren. Seattle-based novelists maker
Archie McPhee and Co. based the figure on an
actual little librarian, Nancy Pearl, executive director of
Seattle Public Library’s Center for the Book. Pearl
is perhaps best known as creator of the “One City,
One Book” program emulated by cities across the
United States, Hartford among them. She is author of
the recently published Book Lust, an annotated
reference volume of recreational reading compiled
from her many reviews published in Library Journal.
She is a creative and enterprising woman who
has inspired a love of reading and books to a new
generation of readers (think Harry Potter). So, it
would follow that librarians would be cheering that
so fine an exemplar of the profession should be
selected as the model, right? You guessed wrong.

A good number of librarians are positively
inscentsed over the new figure. It isn’t Pearl’s
accomplishments they decry, but rather her
wardrobe! They cite the figure’s bespectacled
countenance, drab, shapeless suit, signature
“sensible shoes”, and worst of all “shushing action”
as setting the profession back 40 years. You might
find yourself thinking “What’s the fuss? So librarians
have an image problem, but isn’t theirs preferable
to another’s, say lawyers?” For a while, “librarian”
was actually in the lead among votes cast in
a poll conducted on the Barbie website (www.
barbie.com) that asked “Just for fun...if it were
up to YOU, what would Barbie be?” Granted, Barbie’s
detractors insist that she isn’t an
actual person, she would not be able to
walk much less stand on account of the
disproportion of her rather ample bosom to
her diminutive feet, which would rule out any
sort of “Barbie as Nancy Pearl” doll, the way
you see Barbie often portraying Scarlett O’Hara
or Cinderella. The debate over the delerious
effect of Barbie on the self-images of young
women aside, as someone who grew up
with several Barbies, including Ken, the Dream
House, and a carrying case specially designed
to warehouse her coordinated wardrobe, I thought
it was pretty cool that my chosen profession was a
contender at least! I can’t imagine I’m alone in this
sentiment.

It’s true. The librarian action figure’s attire could
use some sprucing up, though it is inspired what
viewers of the “What Not to Wear” program on
TLC (a popular favorite of mine) are subjected to
each week. And we are most certainly not the only
profession in need of a fashion makeover! I have to
confess I actualtly disturb at first by her dowdy
appearance since I have always (here noted with a
bit of self-irony) prided myself in defying the classic
librarian stereotype. For one, I find sensible shoes
deplorable though I allow for certain exceptions such
as running sneakers. Secondly, I am descended from
a long line of women who refuse to quietly accede
to the aging process with the grace befitting a New

on page 3
Hosting the 23rd Annual NELINET Spring Meeting

The University Libraries hosted the 23rd Annual NELINET ILL Spring Meeting on June 16th. The day-long meeting, held in Wilde Auditorium, was attended by Interlibrary Loan librarians and staff from all the New England states. Over 130 people attended the session, which focused on Union Catalogs.

The keynote speaker was Dan Iddings of the Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium, whose address was on Union Catalogs Expand LL Horizon. Participants in the panel discussion on State-Wide Union Catalogs were Stephen Cauffman of the Connecticut Digital Library, discussing the redesigning of the circulation department, with the addition of the beautiful new desk made for us by the University’s craftsmen. This new desk is – Staff.

Chiarty Bird signed off in May as one of the two Interlibrary Services Coordinators. She came to us from the Library Association of Warehouse Point and holds a BS in Human Development and Family Relations from the University of Connecticut, Storrs and an MLS from Southern Connecticut State University.

Two new staff members arrived in September. Sarah Smith took on the position of Technical Services Assistant, which is now full time. She received her BA in Biblical Studies from Wheaton College in Illinois. Bob Antaramian is the new second half of the Evening Coordinator combo, along with Julio Armstrong. Bob Smith is familiar to some of you from his employment at the West Hartford Public Library. He has a BA in English from the University of Wisconsin.

The last new look of the season is the gap where Deegan Lukienchuk used to be in Interlibrary Services. Deegan became Mrs. Gerald Vigliotti on August 30th. Both University of Hartford Alumni, Deegan and Jerry met when he was checking up on her while working at the New Britain Public Library. She has a BA in English from the University of Natural Medicine. Kristin Kacmarcik, daughter of Judy Kacmarcik, University Libraries Business Manager, graduated from the University of Hartford in May 2002. After graduation, Kristin joined the United States Navy. She is stationed in Japan for three years, where she is planning a career in the Navy in the medical field.

Tani Eckstrand, Mortensen’s Head of Technical Services, has been admitted into the online PhD program at the University of Natural Medicine.

Other Departments

Our own Randi Ashton-Pritting, Director, University Libraries, was among the degree recipients during the May 18th University of Hartford Commencement. Randi was awarded Doctor in Educational Leadership (with distinction no less). Her dissertation research explored the interorganizational and interpersonal challenges of library partnerships in higher education. Hats and homs to Randi!

Eric Bemasek joined the Allen Library Staff this fall as the new Public Services Coordinator. Eric is not completely new to the Allen Library or to The Hart School. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Composition in the year 2000. Since graduating he has pursued an active interest in electronic music, composing and performing in his free time. In hopes of reducing his overuse of his ears, Eric released a full-length CD of abstract electronic works, titled "Dispelling the Mythology of Sound."

Susan Boss, Mortensen’s Stacks and Serials Coordinator, continues her studies in the MLS program at Southern Connecticut State University. She hopes to graduate May 2004.

Tani Eckstrand, Mortensen’s Head of Technical Services, has been admitted into the online PhD program at the University of Natural Medicine.

The closing keynote presentation, “FRBR in our Future?”, was made by Diane Baden of NELINET, Inc. FRBR is the acronym for Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, a theoretical model for representing concepts and relationships.

Current Events

After the very rainy spring, we were delighted to have perfect weather for the program. Everyone attending was impressed by the University’s facilities. This was the second time UL hosted this event.
Woods Family CLI Dedication

On September 9, a large group gathered on the main floor of the Mortensen Library for the official dedication of the Woods Family Center for Learning and Instruction. Among those present were members of the University administration, faculty and staff; representatives from the Mortensen Board of Visitors; and University students.

The CLI, which is shared by the Libraries and the Faculty Center for Learning Development (FCLD), provides two technologically sophisticated spaces. The larger which will be used by the Libraries provide instruction students in electronic research and skills, has 16 student PCs, a ceiling mounted projector linked to the instructor’s PC and a DVD/VHS unit. It has seats for 32 students. FCLD will use the space to conduct faculty workshops on integrating technology into their teaching. There is also a smaller lab for FCLD to provide small group and individual faculty training.

During September, the new space was used for 38 library classes plus three FCLD Blackboard training sessions. A total of 704 people attended the sessions. These numbers represent a 10% increase over last September. Most significantly, the number of classes for advanced undergraduates and graduate students increased by 60% over last year. As information finding tools become more sophisticated, students at all levels need training and retraining in the most effective methods for using the tools.

The CLI was made possible primarily by donations from the Woods Family, a private foundation, and the University’s Parents Association. Additional funding was provided by the FCLD from its strategic planning budget and the University’s Technology Planning Committee from the student technology fee.

A Special Gift to Mortensen Library

Carla Lindsey, Senior, Hartford Art School, is one of those special students that you will always remember, even years after they graduate. They shine and sparkle when you meet them, and they leave a lasting impression. I first met Carla during her mother, Delois Traynum-Lindsey’s book signing that was held in Mortensen Library. It was evident that art is Carla’s passion, her calling. In the spring, I ran into Carla again and she mentioned that the Library walls needed her help! And what came from those brief encounters was the most wonderful painting of the W.H. Mortensen Library, Carla’s gift to the Library.

Carla, with her artistic eye, looked at all the possible Library views and discovered that there is a very interesting and little seen view from the back side of the walking bridge behind Mortensen. Her


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Allen Memorial Library Donors – May 2003 to November 2003

The Arnold Franchetti Collection

The Arnold Franchetti Collection at the Allen Library, University of Hartford, is now available for use by researchers and performers. The collection comprises nearly three hundred manuscript scores, parts, fragments, and sketches for orchestra, band, chamber ensemble, piano and other solo instruments, and voice, including sixteen operas, concert arias, and theater pieces; recordings; and photographs. Researchers and performers interested in his music may contact Ethel Bacon, Archivist (University Archives, 860-768-4143), who maintains a preliminary checklist of the collection.

Arnold Franchetti, 1906-1993, was born in Lucca, Italy. He first majored in science, then turned to music. From 1937 to 1939 he lived in Munich, where he came under the influence of Richard Strauss. During his studies at the Salzburg Mozarteum, he was awarded his top distinction, the Lilli Lehman Prize, for his opera Baucl. In addition to his degrees earned in Munich and Salzburg, he studied with his father, Alberto Franchetti, a celebrated opera composer.

He emigrated to the United States in 1947 and taught at The Hartt School from 1948 until 1979, chairing the Theory and Composition department until his retirement. Contrapuntal mastery, interest in wind ensembles, in the solo saxophone, and an abiding love for percussion batteries with special attention to xylophones, vibraphones, marimbas, etc., distinguish his style. His highly idiosyncratic compositional process of manipulating melodic and rhythmic cells by repetition, intervocalic expansion, transposition and contrapuntal combination with contrasting fragments resulted in an imaginative, improvisatory style or in a pointillist miniaturist texture. He admired Aaron Copland, and Copland returned the compliment by calling Franchetti’s music that of a “fantasist ... it is hopeless to try to outguess him.”

The University Libraries welcomes your support of our collections. The following list of materials includes some of the titles the libraries would like to add. Donations to the individual subject areas specified on the web page are also welcome.

The web page address is: http://library.hartford.edu/llr/donoropp.htm for online donations.

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The New Furniture has arrived!

In the spring issue of Resources it was announced that the Parents Association voted to fund new furniture for the University Libraries. Well, the furniture has arrived!

September 16th started out like any other day. But soon the anticipation began to mount. You could feel the excitement in the air. It was like your birthday and all the holidays rolled into one. Tani Eckstrand and Susan Boss had early in the summer, made arrangements for Residential Life to take away our old mauve and aqua furniture. That furniture had served the University well, but it was tired and very worn.

Two extremely large freight trucks pulled up to Mortensen Library’s loading dock. Our new furniture had arrived!

By noon the furniture had been off-loaded and placed in the correct spots all over Mortensen and Allen Libraries.

12:30pm, the students were enjoying their new sofas and chairs.

Many thanks go to the Parents Association for supporting this initiative and to Tani for organizing and working with Kim Hicks of John Watts Associates.

Guest Reader Day

One hundred twenty-five children in grades K-6 were the guests of the University of Hartford during the week of June 2nd to participate in Educational Main Street’s annual Guest Reader Day. Each spring students from the partner schools come to the University of Hartford’s Children’s Reading Room to listen to members of the University community read to them.

This year’s Guest Readers from the University of Hartford were:

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This year’s Guest Readers from the University of Hartford were:

John A. Watts, who, by the way, is still very active and involved in the business. It was made very clear in the beginning of this project that John Watts Associates strives for customer satisfaction. Kim Hicks worked very closely with Tani to bring fabric and chair samples, as well as arranged delivery and set up times. Having a showroom on 121 Roberts Street in East Hartford, CT made the selection process even easier.

Did we receive personal attention? You bet! It is not often that libraries replace all or most of their furniture in one swoop. Both Kim and Jeff were creative with the design of the furniture as well as ideas on how to stretch our funds just a bit further. On delivery day, Kim even showed up bright and early to help supervise the unloading.

It was an interesting summer – with the new furniture and the construction of the Woods Family Center for Learning and Instruction. Working with Kim and Jeff made both projects seem easy. Their design teams took the staffs’ thoughts and ideas and made them reality for us. The whole process felt seamless and painless. If only house decorating could be made so simple.

The Arnold Franchetti Collection

Dr. Ashton-Pritting at Guest Reader Day.

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