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

On April 17, 2006, the University of Hartford held its annual Recognition Day ceremony to pay tribute to its faculty and staff for their valuable services to the University. The University Libraries honored the following members:

Jennifer Olson, Allen Technical Services Coordinator – 5 years
George Lechner, Mortensen Reference Assistant – 15 years
Jean Prescott, Mortensen Senior Reference Librarian – 35 years

Hats and Horns to the Libraries staff!!

Staff Happenings

Randi Ashton-Pritting, Director, University libraries, was the keynote speaker at the recent Black Caucus of the American Library Association Connecticut Affiliate (BCALA-CT) meeting on March 8, 2006. Her speech - Me? A Librarian? Why not! discussed education, the importance of the masters in library science, and the role librarians play in the quest for information.

Kristina Edwards has taken the position of Serials and Stacks Coordinator at Mortensen Library. Kristina comes to Mortensen from the Albert Brenner Glickman Family Library at the University of Southern Maine, where she worked in interlibrary Loan for several years. Kristina previously worked at the Mortensen Library while she was a student at the University of Hartford. Welcome back Kristina!

Tom Caw, Allen Memorial Library Public Services Librarian, attended the International Association for the Study of Popular Music US Branch Meeting, held at Middle Tennessee State University. The University Libraries honored the following members:

VIKTOR is Retiring – Kristina Edwards

Yes, it is true, VIKTOR, which has been used to manually check in journals for the University of Hartford Libraries for as long as anyone currently working here remembers, is going away. The process of setting up electronic journal check-in has been ongoing, but has been completed mainly in the last three months by Kristina Edwards, our new Serials and Stacks Coordinator.

The library system's current print copy journals total approximately 900. Each of these had to be set up through the acquisitions module in the library's Voyager System, a process which involves several steps, including setting up the journal’s publication pattern. There are a few stragglers that are not yet complete due to erratic publishing schedules and other complications, but the majority should be visible in the library’s public access catalog upon searching the journal title. The information is listed under recent issues, showing the date and often the volume and issue number.

Overall, this should be quite useful to the library’s patrons, as well as staff.

Mortensen Library Board of Visitors

Join us as two University of Hartford baseball scholars lead you around the bases: Walter Harrison, President and Warren Goldstein, Professor of History, as well as other great baseball careerists: Bill Dowling, President and General Manager, New Britain Rock Cats and Gary Larocque, Vice President, New York Mets.

June 19 - New York Mets vs Cinninati Reds - 7:05pm - Shea Stadium.
Cost: $145 - includes ticket to the game, round-trip transportation and conversations with Walter Harrison and Gary LaRocque.

June 24 - Hartford Senators vs Providence Game - Noon - Vintage 19th-century-style baseball game played according to 1867 rules and on the new University of Hartford athletic fields. Join Walter Harrison for a conversation at 10:00am on 19th Century Baseball.
Cost: Lecture and game - $15; Game only - Adults - $7; Game only - children under 12 years of age - $3.

June 27, New Britain Rock Cats vs Portland Sea Dogs - Rock Cats Stadium, New Britain - 6:30pm. Enjoy a pre-game picnic at 5:30pm with Walter Harrison and Bill Dowling.
Cost: $45 - includes picnic and box seat at the game.

Sponsored by the President's College

Package Price
All Three Events: - $180 per person!
Register now – tickets are limited.
Contact Patricia Cremins, Director, President’s College - 768-4350.

Food for Fines

In celebration of National Library Week, University Libraries sponsored “Food for Fines” from April 3 - 7, 2006. Students with currently overdue materials could return items to Mortensen or Allen Libraries and in lieu of cash use nonperishable food donations as payment for their fines. Food for Fines program is designed to benefit everyone. Patrons benefit by having the option to save themselves some cash. The library is able to encourage return of overdue materials that might otherwise have been permanently lost. The community benefits through much-needed donations for the less fortunate in the Greater Hartford area.

This year, the Libraries delivered eight large boxes of food to Matt Carlin at the Center for Community Service for donation to FoodShare.
The Story of the Anchor

Margaret Mair

Few people in the Greater Hartford community know the real story behind the huge ship’s anchor that everyone passes as they drive by or onto the University campus. The anchor originally belonged to the USS Hartford, the flagship of Admiral David G. Farragut. The ship was launched in Boston in 1858 and pressed into service during the Civil War battle of Mobile Bay. The US Navy donated the anchor to the University in 1958 as part of a military historic preservation scheme whereby military artifacts found new life on American college campuses.

Almost every college and university has one statue or artifact that draws out the inner prankster in generations of undergraduates. The University of Hartford is no exception. University fraternities and sororities have taken turns painting the anchor with their colors since the anchor was acquired. According to an article in the Observer written by Betty Waugh for the January 25, 1979 issue, University administration was at first alarmed by the practice but finally decided that the students, “needed something to paint.” The first fraternity to decorate the anchor was Upsilon Xi. Today, campus groups must request permission before painting the anchor.

More information on the anchor and the USS Hartford may be found in the Archives. The University archives contain photos of the ship, correspondence from Farragut, and the July 1864 general order sending the Hartford to Mobile Bay. ■

Book Signing at Mortensen Library

Terri Raimondi

Jason Socrates Bardi ’96 signed copies of his newly published book, The Calculus Wars: Newton, Leibniz and the Greatest Mathematical Clash of All Time (Pocket Essentials, April, 2006), on Monday, May 8, in the Woods Family Center for Learning and Instruction, Mortensen Library. Bardi discussed the book and conducted a question-and-answer session. The event was sponsored by the Physics Department.

For the first time, the book discusses the long and bitter dispute over the discovery of calculus by the greatest scientific giants of all time, Sir Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz. Today, Newton and Leibniz are generally considered the twin independent inventors of calculus, and are both credited with giving mathematics its greatest push forward since the time of the Greeks. Had they known each other under different circumstances, writes Bardi, they might have been friends, but each – openly and in secret – declared war against the other.

At the University of Hartford, Bardi was the first winner of the Belle K. Ribicoff Prize, which is awarded annually to a graduating senior. He graduated summa cum laude with a dual major in Physics and English, and was a member of the Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society and a recipient of the Regent Honors Award. He also won the Allen/Lawley Award in Physics and the A.1 and Nancy Hajek Scholarship, as well as several writing awards.

Bardi went on to earn a master’s degree from Johns Hopkins University, and he is now a science writer/editor in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases department at the National Institutes of Health. He was previously a science writer at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA. ■

Reference by Appointment

Kitty Tynan

How would you like your own personal reference librarian, ready to sit down and spend thirty to forty-five minutes working with you on your research project? That’s the offer Mortensen’s Reference Services staff extended to University students this spring, and the response was terrific. Sixteen researchers met with a librarian during the period between March 27 and April 26, the time when students return from spring break and enter the traditional “term paper crunch.”

Most of the students were doing papers for RLC - the “freshman writing” course taken by the majority of undergraduates. But students in sociology, chemistry, creative writing, and engineering also signed up. In fact a staff member doing research with a professor took advantage of the service too! We’re very pleased with the response to our pilot “Reference by Appointment” project.

Watch for a “rerun” in November. ■

Safety Committee

George Lechner

The University of Hartford Safety Committee, under the leadership of Rob Levandoski of Fuss and O’Neil, is instituting a campus-wide program focusing on fire prevention and large-scale emergency planning.

The committee hopes to standardize emergency plans across the entire campus. Each member of the Safety Committee will be responsible for a particular area or building on campus. She or he will regularly check the building for fire and overall safety hazards, schedule talks on safety and emergency planning, and perform evacuation drills on a regular basis.

Emergency evacuation plans, alarm panels, and fire extinguishers will be clearly identified. In addition, the University emergency plan calls for “accountability areas” to be set up near individual buildings. Head counts by the particular safety coordinator in charge will determine if staff are present and safely accounted for.

“Responsibility trees” will be set up for contacting people during emergencies and then formalized throughout the University. This will be done by an overall University Situation Management Team that provides the University with a centralized emergency command center to coordinate with local police and fire departments, and supervise the numerous tasks relative to any emergency situation. ■
Sierra Dixon, a junior Art History major employed in the Technical Services Department at Mortensen Library, has distinguished herself for her interest in learning campus procedures and policies within Acquisitions and Cataloging. She is now able to confidently import bibliographic records from OCLC and perform authority work. Adaptable and attentive to detail, never late for her job nor complaining about any project “no matter how boring” it may be, she has been “a tremendous asset” to the Acquisitions Department. She was the primary person responsible for the Art Reference Re-cataloging project and “by far the most reliable student” her supervisor has met in her years of experience. She will be interning at the Connecticut Historical Society next fall … and sadly missed!

Charles Huang is a first-year graduate student in The Hart School, enrolled in a Doctor of Musical Arts degree program for Oboe Performance. Charles Huang has worked in the Library since Spring 2005, starting out as a shelver and switching to the Circulation Desk. Charles’ nominating letter states: “For every project that needs to be done, one can be confident Charles will readily agree and quickly learn the requisite skills for the job. I never need to tell him to work harder or stay on task. One can work comfortably while Charles is at the desk and need not worry about things getting out of hand. The tasks of the Circulation Desk position are varied, all of which Charles completes without complaint.”

Allison Soul is a junior in The Hart School, majoring in Euphonium Performance with a minor in Professional and Technical Writing. She has worked in the Allen Library for two years at the Circulation Desk. Allison’s nominating letter acknowledges her “consistently earnest and affable disposition,” and praises her for being punctual, reliable, and a pleasure to work with. The letter also says “there is no project or task that provokes a complaint or negative attitude from Allison, and moreover, she quickly learns how to get the job done. Allison is the most reliable and helpful student worker I know, and also the most friendly and good-spirited. Diligence is an important trait in a worker, but when that diligence is complemented by a genial personality as in Allison’s case, the workplace becomes a much more enjoyable environment.”