The Allen Library, a branch of the University Libraries, has had close ties to The Hartt School since the library’s founding nearly eighty years ago. This is typical of music libraries, many of which start as departmental libraries. While documenting the library from its early history through the numerous changes that have taken place, this brief history focuses on developments since 1987 during my tenure as head of the library.

From Its Beginning

Now nearly seventy years old, what started as the “Hartt Library” began in 1938, eighteen years after the founding of the school, when Gladys Pellettieri (wife of Hartt Professor Louis Pellettieri) brought together books, scores, and recordings donated by members of the faculty. The library moved to the University of Hartford campus along with The Hartt School in 1957, and was initially located within the school’s Alfred C. Fuller Music Center. In 1963 it was named the Mildred P. Allen Memorial Library as a permanent memorial to Mrs. Allen, former Secretary of the Allen Library. Like most libraries, we depended heavily on the work of student staff, who were primarily Hartt students. Interestingly – and happily – a number of them were promoted into regular positions after graduation.

The Allen Library introduced its first automated dedicated to staff cataloging. By 1991 as the libraries owned perhaps four computers, all hard to imagine the paradigmatic changes that have occurred in libraries. In 1987, the University Libraries introduced its first automated library system and access to the library’s collection moved from printed cards to an online database, moving from printed cards to an online database, and recordings donated by members of the faculty. The library moved to the University of Hartford campus along with The Hartt School in 1957, and was initially located within the school’s Alfred C. Fuller Music Center. In 1963 it was named the Mildred P. Allen Memorial Library as a permanent memorial to Mrs. Allen, former Secretary of State, a pianist, music-lover, and friend of Hartt. The Allen Library moved from its original campus location in the Fuller Music Building to its present quarters in the Gray Center in 1989. Small renovations were completed during the summers of 2001 and 2006.

Staff

In 1946 Wanda Schwerdtfeger was named librarian and in 1960 Ethel Bacon was appointed Librarian. Ethel served until her retirement in 1987 when I was appointed head of the Allen Library. Like most libraries, we depended heavily on the work of student staff, who were primarily Hartt students. Interestingly – and happily – a number of them were promoted into regular positions after graduation. Readers may recall Jeffrey Heyl, Phil Ponella, Sara Lindberg, Dylan Armstrong, Amy Dankowski, Kaitlin Earley, Aaron Muller, Pete Kemble, and Dan Roman, several of whom continued on to library school and became music librarians in their own right. Yet the makeup of the library’s staffing gradually changed as we realigned positions to meet new needs:

In 1988 we appointed our first professional music cataloger (Paula Hickner) to deal with the intricacies of describing the great variety of formats, languages, editions, arrangements, and providing bibliographic control required for music materials. A part-time assistant (Hartt graduate student Kristine Day) soon followed to take over the burden of the clerical workload, and in 1999 this position became full time. A part-time cataloging assistant was added in 2003.

In public services we added a part-time evening supervisor (Aaron Muller, another Hartt graduate) in 1997 to accommodate increased activity in circulation and reserves. In 2005 we appointed our first public services librarian (Tom Caw) to address the growing demands for reference and instruction.

Technology

When one thinks about technological developments over the last twenty years, it is not hard to imagine the paradigmatic changes that have occurred in libraries. In 1987, the University Libraries owned perhaps four computers, all dedicated to staff cataloging. By 1991 as the University Libraries introduced its first automated library system and access to the library’s collection moved from printed cards to an online database, the Allen Library acquired five “dumb terminals” for public use and each staff member was given...
Excerpts of a speech delivered by Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King in 1959 recently formed the basis of a Black History Month celebration at Franklin Academy in East Haddam, CT. The speech has been used a number of times for University of Hartford events, but this is the first time it has been used by a secondary school.

Franklin Academy is a preparatory school for students with Non-Disability, a disability associated with Autism. Students with NVLD usually have strong auditory and verbal competencies and often learn best through methods that involved listening. For these students listening to the actual voice of Martin Luther King was a powerful experience.

The recording was introduced to the students by James S. Peters II, a retired Adjunct Professor of Psychology at the University of Hartford. Dr. Peters reminisced about inviting his college fraternity brother, Martin Luther King, to speak at his new University of Hartford in 1959. Peters also arranged for King to stay overnight at Hartford Seminary.

After his speech, Peters led the students in singing "We Shall Overcome." The young students were awed by this opportunity to meet someone who was personally involved with Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement.

The event at Franklin Academy was arranged by Keith Curry, teacher of Spanish and Director of Activities at the Academy.

This story is adapted from an article by Diane Church in The Regional Express, March 1, 2007.

Dr. Peters graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Counseling and Psychology. He received an additional degree from Hartford Seminary where his thesis was entitled “A Study of the Psychological and Social Problems of Negro Migrants in Hartford and its Vicinity.” Peters taught Psychology at the original Hillyer College and at the University while working in the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Peters told to his young audience his own story of growing up in the southern United States during the Jim Crow era. He also spoke of the more subtle forms of racism he found in the northern states.

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A hearty congratulations to Nick!

Phil has been accepted to the PhD program in music composition at Stony Brook University, and will be moving to Long Island at the end of July. Consequently, he would also like to say: Thanks to my friends and colleagues at Allen and Mortensen for three terrific years!

On May 14, 2007, Nick Wharton became the new Head of Reference Services. Nick brings to University Libraries 10 years of experience. He holds a second masters in education – which will come in quite handy with all the bibliographic instruction that the Mortensen Reference Departments handles during the academic year. Please stop in and introduce yourself to Nick or you may contact him at 768.4142 or wharton@hartford.edu.

A hearty congratulations to Nick!
Your Feedback and our Response!

Over the past few months, an informal survey has been conducted with Members of the Mortensen Board of Visitors. Members were asked what they thought about the Board today and what they’d like to see for the future. As a result of their feedback, new programs are already underway and others are being developed.

All members were extremely complimentary of Randi Ashton-Pritting’s leadership of the University Libraries and Humphrey Tonkin’s leadership of the Mortensen Board. There was also unanimous praise for the programs sponsored by the Board. Members felt that the programs were interesting, scholarly and showcased the University’s excellent faculty.

A number of members asked for an update on the Board’s mission. They said they would especially like to be able to articulate the Board’s mission and purpose when speaking with prospective new members. At the May Mortensen Board meeting, Humphrey Tonkin therefore announced that a strategic planning group will be formed this summer to review the mission of the Board, update it if necessary, and disseminate the mission statement to all members.

Board members also said they would like to know the backgrounds of their fellow Board members because they probably share interests in writing, collecting, reading and scholarship. So, when space permits, a Mortensen Board member will be profiled in each issue of Resources. Additionally, short biographies of new members will be distributed at the annual spring meeting.

A significant number of Board members also offered to be actively engaged with the University libraries. They said they wanted to learn more about the libraries needs and apply their skills wherever possible. The list of volunteer initiatives is growing rapidly:

- **David LaBau** worked with Randi to raise funds from state wide architects so that the Architecture Book Fund has now reached the $10,000 endowment level. Randi can at last use the spendable income (4% of the endowment) to purchase architecture books for the library and enhance the collection.
- **Natalie Segal** has agreed to help create a Writer’s Group because so many members asked for support in writing and publishing. Natalie will be letting us know more about the Group in the coming months.
- **Dora Rytmann** is organizing the papers of Atwood Collins in the University’s archives. Collins was instrumental in the formation of the United Nations and thanks to Dora his collections will be more accessible to researchers.
- And _Jim Lyon_ believes in the Mortensen so strongly that he sent a personal letter to all Board members urging them to make a gift to the library this year. When we report on the results of Board giving when the fiscal year closes (June 30) we believe Jim’s efforts will be greatly rewarded!
- Finally, many Board members suggested that we should draw more people outside the University to the Mortensen’s doors and impressive resources. Lou Loomis took the time to create a list of her friends and neighbors in the West End who she thought might like to learn more about the Mortensen. And, _Jan Larson, Nora Anthony, Marcia Hall, Grace Mitchell and Emily Holcombe_ have been helping Randi to determine what needs to be done to make the library more inviting.

Their suggestions have included supplying maps, making the reference desk more visible, introducing people to the vast database resources, creating a warmer environment by a new coat of paint (not white or grey!), adding more paintings, and using Mortensen board members as “ambassadors” for the library. By the fall we hope to follow up on many of those improvements and have a program in place that welcomes new users to the library and makes everyone feel at home.

We encourage feedback and suggestions from Board members at any time! Please call Randi Ashton-Pritting at 860.768.4268 or email pritting@hartford.edu.

Steve’s contributions have helped Randi to add much needed and appreciated books to the library without tapping into her limited acquisition budget. Randi said she wanted to learn more about the annual spring meeting.

To all those who joined us at the Mortensen we extend our thanks for your contribution. We hope you will attend next year’s meeting in one of the many ways you are able to support the University’s finest resource.

Linda Solow Blotner attended the Music Library Association annual conference in Pittsburgh where she co-chairs the Publications Committee and served on the search committee for the editor of MLA’s Web Site. She also attended the spring meeting of the New England Music Library Association at Connecticut College. Linda is chair of the chapter’s Public relations Committee, which launched the chapter’s new web site (http://www.nemiamusic.org/) earlier this spring. Linda is a member of the Local Arrangements Committee for MLA’s 2008 meeting which will take place in Newport, RI next February. Linda also served on the Nominating Committee for the US Branch of the International Association of Music Libraries. Her latest article, titled “Music Libraries of Tomorrow: Virtual or Concrete?”, appeared in Music, Libraries, and the Academic Essays in Honor of Lenore Coral (Middleton, WI: A-R Editions, 2007).

_Tom Cav_ attended the Music Library Association annual conference and the spring meeting of the New England Music Library Association. Tom is co-coordinator of MLA’s Jazz and Popular Music Roundtable, who sponsored one of the speakers on a panel titled “Music in Pittsburgh,” and was appointed to the search committee for a new Music Library Association Publicity Officer. Tom recently stepped down after four years as co-coordinator of the New Members Forum within the Membership Committee. Tom also attended the International Association for the Study of Popular Music’s IASPM-US and IASPM Canada 2007 Joint Conference: Boundaries, Blockades, and Bridges, held at Northeastern University.

If you haven’t already done so, please stop by room L108 of Mortensen Library to welcome our new Head of Technical Services, _Ben Ide_. He comes to us from Harvard University, where he was Head of Technical Services for Lamont Library. Ben has also been a cataloger at Harvard and headed the technical services department at Bryant College. Although he is now only commuting from Providence, Ben hopes to move to the area shortly.

Andrew King has been accepted into the masters program at The Hartt School where he will pursue a MMus degree in piano performance as a student of David Westfall. Andrew continues to teach piano privately in the greater-Hartford area.

Longtime staff member _George Lechner_ of the Reference Department will marry Karla Lee Ekwust on Saturday, June 9th. They will be married at the Hill Stead Museum in Farmington. Karla and George were introduced by friends last year. Both are history professors and both are animal lovers who are active in animal rescue programs, primarily WAG (We Adopt Greyhounds), a Connecticut-based greyhound rescue organization, and also Preemin horse rescue, care and adoption. After honeymooning in Chadd’s Ford, PA, Karla and George will settle down with their two adoptive greyhounds, two very independent cats, and a handsome rescued horse named Ben.

Brooke Lippy attended the Music Library Association annual conference, and the New England Chapter meeting at Connecticut College in her continuing role as Member-at-Large. She also attended the New England Technical Services Librarians spring meeting. Brooke attended a preliminary meeting in New York with representatives of Waldo and Liblime to discuss Koha, Liblime’s open source product, as well as the Connecticut Library Consortium Open Source Study Group meeting in Middlebury.

Jennifer Olson attended the spring meetings of the New England Music Library Association and New England Technical Services Librarians. She participated in a webinar titled “The Reference Interview.” Jennifer, who holds an MMus from Butler University, is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Library and Information Science degree program at Simmons College.

Phil Salathé completed his studies at Hartt in May 2007, receiving the Artist Diploma in music composition. Phil was also this year’s winner of The Hartt School Composition Department’s Edward Dienmarte Award at the graduate level. His recent works include “The Heart That Loves But Once”, a new composition for oboe, viola, harp, and piano/ celesta. Taking its title from a letter written by Clara Wieck to her future husband, Robert Schumann, the piece was premiered in March 2007 by the Hartt School’s 20/20 Ensemble. Pianist Luiza Aquino, a fellow Allen employee, premiered the “Bagatelle” for solo piano at a concert in Philadelphia earlier this year.

Phil has arranged several pieces for the Miklos Quartet, an iconic new music ensemble that features another Allen employee, Steve FitzGerald, on alto saxophone.

Staff Happenings - continued on page 10
In 1982 the University of Hartford buried a time capsule to commemorate its 25th anniversary. The capsule contained items such as copies of The Hartford Courant, University publications, a proclamation from Governor William Ingleson, an integrated computer chip, and a 25th anniversary flag. One of the more interesting items was a bottle of Inglenook Pinot Noir 1957, donated by the J. Walton Bissell Foundation, Inc. Other interesting items were a bottle of O'Neill, an integrated computer chip, and a 25th anniversary flag. One of the more interesting items was a bottle of Inglenook Pinot Noir 1957, donated by the J. Walton Bissell Foundation, Inc. Other interesting items were a bottle of O'Neill, an integrated computer chip, and a 25th anniversary flag.

Despite the best efforts of those involved, moisture eventually seeped into the capsule. As a result, when the time capsule was opened in 2007, much of its contents had suffered water damage. Thanks to the imaginative efforts of Anna Bigazzi, Art Librarian, most of the artifacts were saved. Anna adapted an old dry mounting press to handle the paper items. She then painstakingly pressed and dried each individual sheet of paper, including the two complete editions of the Courant. Other items required cleaning. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer. A selection of the 1982 time capsule contents will be on display in the Center this summer.
The Novels of the Brontë Sisters. Five sessions. Tuesdays – September 11, 18, 25; October 2, 9.
Catherine Stevenson and Dianna Harrison. The course will focus on three novels: Emily Brontë's
Theaven in detail five short poems from varying
More Poems of the Head and Heart. Five sessions. Mondays – October 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19.
Humphrey Tonkin. Following the same format as he used in his highly successful course last year, Humphrey Tonkin will examine in detail five short poems from varying periods of English literature.

The Twelfth-Century School of Toledo: Where Arabs, Caucasian Chalk Circle
The course will follow a group of Hartt School students as they go into rehearsal for a production of
More courses in preparation
When I think about my parents I am amazed with the amount of support and encouragement I was given over the years. The Parents Association at the University is just like my folks; always eager to read the library proposals, always willing to support the libraries, and always willing to entertain the crazy ideas that the Libraries come up with.

This year the Parents Association funded all new computers for the Woods Family Classroom in Mortensen Library. The computers in the classroom were purchased when the classroom was built – 3 years ago. Last year alone, over 6112 individuals were in that room either for library bibliographic instruction, faculty training, or specially arranged sessions. The need for library instruction is growing in demand and because of the wear and tear on the computers this was the year for replacement. New computers have been purchased and we are waiting for shipment to arrive.

We can not thank the foundations and the Parents Association enough for their support.

Staff Recognition - Ten Years
Marian Smith has attained ten years of service to the Mortensen Library Circulation Department at the University of Hartford. Marian has hired and trained hundreds of Student Workers and worked with several different staff members over her tenure here. Marian represents the Mortensen Library by providing leadership to student desk workers and providing customer service to our library patrons as they use the libraries collections.

An Amazing Gift
At the urging of Mortensen Library Board of Visitors chair Humphrey Tonkin, the Libraries established a year or two ago an ad hoc Committee on Collection Enhancement, to address a problem long recognized by the staff and by library users: because the collection is curriculum-driven (books and other materials are purchased to support the university’s curricular offerings), purchase of new materials of general interest, like biographies, translations of the classics, and the like, can easily slip through the cracks. Such omissions are particularly problematic for programs that cut across disciplines, like the All-University Curriculum, and also for casual users of the library and for adventurous professors wishing to try something new in the classroom.

After reviewing ways of addressing this issue, the committee concluded that a fund to support the general collection should be established and that current needs, combined with the imperative of catching up, would call for an addition to the acquisitions budget of around $10,000 a year. The endowment required to generate such a flow of resources would amount to $250,000, a daunting prospect when the Libraries have so many needs.

Fortunately, the President’s College has come to the University’s aid. This program of non-credit courses and programming aimed at an adult audience of supporters of the University has joined with the Libraries to become the outreach organization. Members of the President’s College see the Mortensen Library as their base and are among the most enthusiastic advocates for the university’s libraries. Their programming is expected to generate a surplus each year to be contributed to the Libraries.

So it came about that at the May 3rd Mortensen Library Board of Visitors meeting the President’s
2007 Student Awards

Every spring, the Mortensen Library Board of Visitors recognizes outstanding student employees from the University Libraries. This spring's winners represent the Allen Library and departments in the Mortensen Library. They received their awards and gift certificates from the University Bookstore at the May 3rd meeting of the Board.

Lucas Carvalho Fiho is a graduate student with a major in Piano Performance who works in the Allen Memorial Library. Lucas is very focused on the task at hand, eager to complete the job. When he has finished something, he'll always ask what else he can do. Whenever there is a new project, Lucas is always happy to take part in it and offer as much assistance as possible. He exemplifies a strong and admirable work ethic. Lucas has contributed a great deal to his area of work with a great attitude (a rare and meritorious combination!).

Stephen Giorgi is a junior in ITT and works in the Mortensen Technologies Department. Stephen knows he is part of a team and each day greets the Library staff and his projects with enthusiasm and determination. When not helping staff with computer issues, he automatically posts the circulating laptops and over 75 public PCs with Windows and Virus updates. Stephen started a weekly one hour instruction time for staff to learn Microsoft applications.

Justin H. Iaics is a senior with a double in Engineering and Mathematics who works in the Mortensen Reference Department. He is known for his MacGyver-like personality and has fixed the Hawkcash machine with a paper clip, researched error codes to fix the public printer, and calculated the exact inventory control. Luis did not give up on the project until every piece of information was complete.

Christian Thompson is a junior in Mechanical Engineering with an Acoustics Minor who works in the Mortensen Technologies Department. Chris was nominated because of his team spirit and his willingness to find a solution. He learns quickly and the staff can depend on him to know the latest news in both Mac and PC worlds.

During a recent Library software upgrade, Chris stayed late to make sure all critical staff computers would be up and ready for the next day. He will be starting his internship over the summer with an acoustical company.

Ailisa Willis is a graduate student with a major in Flute Performance and works in the Allen Memorial Library. Ailisa is energetic and sees things through to completion. She is always keen to pick up new ways of helping the users find what they need and is able to retain what she has been taught after one lesson. Ailisa has frequently volunteered to cover shifts for her co-workers and in several instances with almost no advance notice. She is unflappable in the face of technological adversity. Ailisa has a wry sense of humor (or humour as she would spell it) and a strong work ethic. Her ability to help the users has made her one of our most valuable student employees.

What could these possibly have in common? The Libraries, of course! On March 26 the Mortensen Library Board of Visitors sponsored “Hyena in Petticoats? Mary Wollstonecraft and A Vindication of the Rights of Woman”.

Mary Wollstonecraft’s A Vindication of the Rights of Women (1792) is a timeless revolutionary book. Composed just eleven years after America’s defeat of the British and while the excesses of the French Revolution were shocking the old order in Europe, Wollstonecraft seized the moment and passionately argued for freedom and equality among the sexes as well as redress for the myriad social and political injustices suffered by women.

Appropriately enough for a symposium at our university, many of Wollstonecraft’s ideas centered around a woman’s right to be educated. She viewed this right as a major step toward female emancipation and scorned the prevailing notion that contracting a good marriage was the only measure of a woman’s success in life.

She favored the radical idea that an educated woman could find her own way in the world, and could study the arts, sciences, medicine, or law as a means of attaining personal independence and professional status. With these achievements, Wollstonecraft believed that women would attain both “power and control over themselves” — true liberation from the constant social control of men.

The panelists were Christopher Anderson, Leslie Lindenauner, Jennifer Sanborn, and Catherine Stevenson. They brought to life the woman, the time period, the book, and examined the issues facing a newly formed nation.

So that brings us to Mini-golf and Community Day!

An unlikely event took place on the lower level of the Mortensen Library on April 21st — eighteen holes of golf! Chip shots were heard all over the periodical room. Laughter, hoots and cheering, and all sorts of excitement made for great rounds of golf. The course was constructed in and out of the periodical stacks, under book carts, tables and chairs. And yes, there were a few holes-in-one!

Next year — bring on windmills, sand traps and water hazards!

Sonnets Marathon 2007

All the world’s a stage, wrote William Shakespeare, but on April 21 in West Hartford, the men and women at the Gengras Student Union were not “merely players” but instead enthusiastic participants in the Sonnet Marathon.

In celebration of Community Day and the 50th Anniversary of the University of Hartford (and also National Poetry Month and Shakespeare’s birthday), all 154 of Shakespeare’s sonnets were read to a receptive audience. Among the readers were students (including a few actors from the recent Hartt School production of The Tempest), faculty and staff, radio announcers, and community members. Most had pre-registered, some were “walk ons”, and a few readers presented more than one sonnet.

Of the 133 readers, ages ranged from teenagers to nonagenarians. Reading styles varied, and as the event progressed, there were cheers from the audience. Despite the short length of each presentation, the individual styles of reading, acting and presenting Shakespeare’s words were clearly shown within the 14 lines of each sonnet.

The Sonnet Marathon was organized by Humphrey Tonkin of the President’s College as well as several volunteers, including Nancy Mather, who represents the President’s College on the Mortensen Library Board of Visitors. Special thanks go to all the readers, the volunteers — and also the attentive audience.

— Shirley Leong

— Randi Lynn Ashton-Pritting