Koha Update - November 2010

– Ben Ide

As I’ve mentioned in earlier articles, we work rather closely with the other libraries in the WALDO consortium and with LibLime, the vendor that supports and develops Koha, our online catalog, on the development of new enhancements and features. Lately there’s been a lot of effort centered around enhancing authority records in Koha, and the University of Hartford Libraries are leading the way.

We use authority records rather extensively here. The best example that I can use to explain what authority records are would be the author, Mark Twain. Samuel Langhorne Clemens chose the name Mark Twain as a writing pseudonym, but this pen name became so widely recognized that nearly everyone refers to him as Twain and not Clemens, and indeed it has become the recognized or authoritative descriptor for the author of Tom Sawyer, Innocence Abroad and a so many other works.

What an authority record does is to redirect people looking for “Samuel Longhorn Clemens” — or “Louis de Conte” or “Quintus Curtius Snodgrass” or one of the other pen names that he used — to the recognized name “Mark Twain.” Without these redirecting entries, searchers would not find the full measure of works by an author. It also helps librarians who catalog these works from otherwise creating erroneously entries and manufacturing dead ends for researchers.

Authority records are even more useful for people like the composer Tchaikovsky, who has multiple recognized alternate spellings of his name. We also use them to pull together and identify iterations of musical works, which can get very byzantine. How many “symphony no.3” titles are there? How many “nocturnes”? Cataloging musical works depends rather heavily on creating and maintaining authority records. And thanks to the world-class performing arts conservatory, the Hartt School, we have a very strong music collection, housed and maintained by my colleagues at the Allen Library.

This is why the University of Hartford is taking a leading role in the development of authority work in Koha. We aren’t the only academic library in the WALDO consortium using authority records, but we are the largest. We have a great deal at stake in creating an effective and usable tool for our patrons and catalogers. The Allen Library director, Tracey Rudnick, and cataloger, Jennifer Olson, have already begun working with LibLime to create a system that will help users better navigate to the information they need. Creating an authority record system that fully supports music searching will benefit all academic and large public library needs, regardless of subject specialties and disciplines. And it will make Koha a better online catalog choice for other institutions, too. ♦
When budding librarians come knocking at the doors of the University of Hartford Libraries looking for advice and knowledge of what we do, we often have no position to offer them. Yet, we try to come up with ways to allow them opportunities to get a feel for what we do on any given day. With no monetary compensation to offer, we have accepted volunteers accepting their time in exchange for library experience. That is what we try to offer in spades. There have been several Simmons and SCSU Library students that have shadowed a Reference Librarian or interviewed a librarian on their typical day. We gladly speak to them and promote our profession in that fashion. But those are shorter associations and are required by their course of study to conduct. The budding librarians that I would like to commend donated large chunks of their time to the Library in exchange for the experience and recommendations that will hopefully gain them positions in the Library world in their bright futures.

In the winter of 2008, a part-time employee of the University of Hartford Costume Shop came in looking for advice on pursuing a career in libraries. We hooked the first volunteer in Jessica Palmer in my tenure at the University Libraries. Jessica offered nearly 20 hours of her time per week. We quickly showed her the design of the library, the design of the library website, the scheme of our call numbers and our commitment to our patrons and their pursuit of knowledge and research. She spent part of her time with me in Reference and part of her time in Technical Services. In Technical Services, Jessica worked with the staff in searching for and importing records in OCLC, as well as, fixing records in our catalog and relabeling those materials for reshelving into the collection. In Reference, Jessica helped me with two large projects. We first shifted the Reference Collection and conducted an inventory of that section. Then, with Jessica’s knowledge of Access, Jessica helped Sam Cook and I to design, categorize and input our three research files (Research Bibliographies (word), Web Subject Pages (Access), and Databases (Access) into one large Subject Guide Database. During this association with Jessica, she applied and was accepted into the MLS program at the University of Pittsburgh. Jessica received her MLS in the Spring of 2010 and has her first professional position as Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, CT.

As Jessica’s time was winding down with us, she introduced us to our next volunteer, Kyle Lynes. Kyle arrived on the heels of Jessica from the Costume Shop. She was able to donate almost as much time per week as Jessica. Kyle picked up where Jessica left off in inputting much of the information into the large subject database. Kyle quickly learned how to search and utilize the different information sources to help our patrons with their research. She is an excellent teacher bringing energy and enthusiasm to our patron’s aid. Kyle is another technically savvy librarian in waiting who was able to help with the database and again spent time working with the Technical Services group. Kyle also took a shine to the profession and lined herself up to be a Library Media Specialist and enrolled in the SCSU MLS program for Library Media Specialists. After several classes and work experience, Kyle decided that she would like to continue in pursuit of her MLS and concentrate on archival and academic librarianship.

Steven Bowen came to us with his degree in hand and several years of experience as Library Media Specialist. Working on year to year contracts, and the economy slipping away, Steven found himself without a contract, last year. He decided to test out other aspects of librarianship. We found each other in need of some help. Steven volunteered with our Technical Services for several weeks
A Little More Remodeling, Thanks to the Parents Association

The Parents Association funded two grant proposals in 2009: A digitization pilot project for the Allen Library to help with electronic reserves and the renovation of study carrels L311, 312, 313, and 314 for the Mortensen.

As one of the largest supporters of Libraries’ mission, the Parents Association understands the role of the libraries on campus and the need to keep moving the library system into the future.

Mortensen’s carrels, located on the upper level, when completed will be cPODlets. Working with the students and Kim Hicks and Sam Appleton of John Watts, Inc., the carrels will be transformed from the 1970s into the 21st century with new tables and chairs as well as equipment for the students to work either independently or with a small group.

The students have been asking for more computers and group work areas. When shown the design of the tables and the color palettes for the rooms, the student reaction has been more than positive.

Thank you to the Parents Association for everything that you do for the University as well as for the Libraries.

Volunteers & Interns ➝ page 2

where he continued on with the same work as Jessica had as well as a shifting project in Periodicals. Then Steven came up to Reference. With his help and guidance we were able to shift the Library of Congress Classification D through G collections in order to make room for materials from the Curriculum Lab. We also worked on inventorying much of the collection. In addition, Steven fills in at the Reference Desk and really enjoys helping patrons find resources in our collection. Steven still works with us each week as we are still hoping for Steven to land a position back in the profession he loves so dearly.

This summer, I also had the pleasure of having Joshua Krutt work with me for a two week crash course in what librarianship is all about. Joshua is University of Connecticut undergraduate and was looking for an internship that would let him have a glimpse of what it means to be a librarian. In our time, like Steven, Joshua worked at the Reference Desk. Also, I had Joshua helped me with the inventory projects and an extensive search for missing and lost books from our collection. I think that we hooked another future librarian and Jonathan would be a welcome addition to our profession.

Volunteers have been a wonderful addition to the library and our policy is to try to support those that we can. I am a living proof of the library volunteerism system. I worked unpaid at both the Brown University’s Rockefeller Library in Reference and the Redwood Library and Athenaeum in Newport, RI working in Special Collections. That was all of the library experience I had when Brown offered me my first professional position. I feel that being a volunteer allows the inexperienced to gain glimpses into the daily life of the profession as well as an opportunity to shine and impress. I know that sponsoring a volunteer can seem to take time away from the daily work. Yet, the relationship allows for skills and manpower to be utilized to augment the research of our patrons and promote the profession to our future librarians. It also is time and effort well spent by the staff of the library to train and coach these special workers. I wish to thank Jessica, Kyle, Steven and Joshua on behalf of the University of Hartford Libraries Reference and Technical Services Departments for their time, their effort and their love of libraries. I wish I had positions to offer each of them right now. They deserve our greatest thanks and our continued support.
This semester the Allen Library (which houses music and dance collections) welcomed two new staff members and has been busy with some exciting outreach initiatives.

The Allen Library launched an engaging online tutorial as part of a required information literacy course for first-year Hartt students. The students’ “personal librarian,” Sam Cook, writes more about this elsewhere in the newsletter. Thanks to this new approach, library staff have seen more first-year dance, music and theatre students in the Allen Library seeking a diverse range of resources.

The Allen Library also increased its in-class library instruction. Two years ago, Allen librarians reached 58 students in class visits. Last year Allen quadrupled that figure (to 255 students), and this year has already reached 278 students; more class visits are planned for the spring. Topics range from general (e.g., how to find articles online or in the library) to specific (e.g., resources in music management, finding music for chamber ensemble performances, and finding vocal music translations). Half the participants were first-year Hartt students attending optional in-person sessions as part of their online library course. Faculty who wish to bring their classes to the library, or have a librarian visit their classes, can find more information at http://library.hartford.edu/services/libraryinstruction.asp.

Outreach to faculty also moves apace. Allen Head, Tracey Rudnick, is actively visiting dance, music, and theatre departmental meetings, and is working with faculty and staff inside and outside the Hartt School to discuss needs and concerns regarding collections, facilities, and services. Some of these meetings include demonstrations of today’s exciting library resources. If you are a faculty or staff member and it’s been a while since you had a library consultation, please consider getting in touch with a librarian!

New Public Services Coordinator, Benjamin Klein, has rejuvenated Allen’s bulletin board in the Hartt School in an effort to reach people who are not in the library. Eye-catching posters answer questions frequently asked by library users. Some of that same information can be found online on Allen’s blog at http://allenlibrary.blogspot.com/. Also check out Allen’s Facebook page for quick updates (and a bit of fun) at http://www.facebook.com/AllenLibrary.

Allen staff are collaborating with Hartt faculty and staff on several projects. Allen’s Technical Services Librarian, Jennifer Olson, worked closely with Hartt Performance Library Manager, Walter Gibson, to devise a new procedure for barcoding Hartt’s musical performance parts. This provides speedier checkout for students and new options for inventory control. Allen staff members are working with the Hartt School’s Ken Steen (Associate Professor of Composition and Theory) and Lief Ellis (Performing Arts Technology Specialist) to explore new methods to digitally deliver reserve audio materials; efficiency, sustainability, and copyright compliance will be critical. In the meantime, Allen went live with another digital initiative, the Hartt Composers Database, at http://library.hartford.edu/allenlibrary/composers/. This resource uses search tools, biographies, photographs, and score excerpts to promote the study and performance of Hartt faculty compositions.

The Allen Library has other collaborations and outreach initiatives in the works, and we look forward to reporting back as they evolve. In the meantime, feel free to chat with library staff if you have ideas or suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you! ♦
**Staff Happenings**

**Jared Cowing** joined the Allen Library as the Cataloging Coordinator in October 2010. Jared will perform cataloging and processing functions for music and dance materials, oversee the work of student employees assisting, and contribute to other Allen services and projects. Jared has a Bachelor of Music in Composition (with a Minor in Audio Production) from Ithaca College, and he is currently pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science at the University of Rhode Island.

**Jennifer (Jenny) Crum** resigned from her position as the Allen Library’s Public Services Coordinator, effective July 2010, to move back to Colorado. **Andrew King** resigned from his position as the Allen Library’s Cataloging Coordinator, effective August 2010, to devote more time to his piano teaching and performing career. We wish Jenny and Andrew well!

University Libraries’ Technical Services Head, **Ben Ide**, has been teaching science at an after school program located at his neighborhood elementary school. The weekly sessions aim to encourage third graders to learn more about the science that fills our everyday lives and build excitement that will hopefully last a lifetime. Using everyday objects, Ben explains the scientific principles behind topics from energy to natural selection. “I hope to inspire kids with the same kind of wonder and curiosity that I have for science. Everyday, we see fantastic examples of science all around us, but we so rarely take the time to notice how amazingly cool this is. I want to impart some of that excitement to kids, and maybe that will lead to future careers in science and technology. We depend on innovation and discovery to better our world, and I want to help the next generation to be part of that.” His thirteen-year-old son, Nick, joins him as Ben’s able bodied assistant.

**Benjamin Klein** joined the Allen Library as the Public Services Coordinator in September 2010. Ben will handle Allen’s physical and electronic reserves, help oversee Allen circulation activities (including the work of student assistants), and contribute to other Allen services and projects. Ben has a BM in Tuba Performance and Music Theory/Composition from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and a MA in Experimental Music and Composition from Wesleyan University. ◆

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**Keeping the Dream Alive - January 17, 2011 - Noon, Lincoln Theater**

Please plan to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Day 2011 by attending a special program of music and reflection at the University of Hartford on January 17, 2011, 11 am to noon, at Lincoln Theater.

To demonstrate your commitment to Dr. King’s dream of being a “beloved community,” you are invited to bring donations of new men’s socks, gloves, hats, scarves, or travel-sized toiletries, which will be given to those who participate in the Church Street Eats program at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. The food program is run by University alumna Rose Fichera-Eagen ’63, M’85.

We hope you will take this opportunity to celebrate King Day at the University of Hartford.

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*The photo above is from 1959, when Dr. King came to Hartford to speak as part of the University of Hartford’s Alexander S. Keller Memorial Fund Lecture Series.*
For a myriad of reasons, the University of Hartford Libraries Collection Development Team is unable to procure every volume published on the far reaching topics taught and researched by our patrons. Some amazing books get passed over due to the scope of the material or topics that are already well represented on the shelves or, worse, a volume exceeds our budgetary allotment. The following is a Wish List of those books that we would like to add to our collection, but need your help in procuring via donation. These are suggestions. If you prefer to donate, less specifically, we would appreciate any help you can give to the University of Hartford Libraries’ Collections.

Art
500 Years of Italian Furniture: Magnificence and Design. Skira, 2009. $55
American Modernism and the Art Institute of Chicago: From World War I to 1955. Art Institute of Chicago, 2009. $70
Distel, Anne. Renoir. Abbeville Press, 2010. $100

Business and Economics
Wallace, Sally, ed. State and Local Fiscal Policy: Thinking Outside the Box? E. Elgar, 2010. $130

Cinema
Woody Allen Collection, Set 1 (DVDs) by Woody Allen. MGM, 2000. $100

Dance

Earth Science
Kozloff, Nikolas. No Rain in the Amazon: How South America’s Climate Change Affects the Entire Planet. Palgrave MacMillan, 2010. $27
Health Sciences
Kosik, Kenneth and Ellen Clegg. Alzheimer’s Solution: How Today’s Care is Failing Millions and How We Can Do Better. Prometheus Books, 2010. $19

Life Sciences

Music

Philosophy

Psychology

Reference
Silver, Alain, ed. Film Noir: the Encyclopedia. Overlook/Duckworth, 2010. $45
Concise Encyclopedia of Western Philosophy, Routledge, 2005. $120
President’s College – Upcoming Programs for Spring 2011

The President’s College Spring Reception
Wine, cheese, registration for courses, and brief presentations by professors.
This free event is an opportunity to learn what the President’s College has to offer. Bring your friends.
Mortensen Library
Friday, January 14, 2011 - 4:30-6:00 pm

Tuesdays at Duncaster: each session $35 ($25 Duncaster resident), including dinner.
January 18 - T. Stores and Ben Grossberg read from their work.
February 8 - Humphrey Tonkin, Soros in Siberia
March 29 - Natacha Poggio; April 26 - John Feierabend;
May 17 - Deborah Kidder

Colin McEnroe - The New Media
Thursdays, January 20, 27; February 3, 4:30-6:00 pm. $90 (Fellows $70).

January 21 - Wayne Rivera, 5:45pm; February 18 - Boyce Batey, 5:45pm

Chris Baker, Patrick McCaughey, Maria Esposito Frank - Divine Rivalry: Renaissance Florence
Fridays, February 4, 11, 18, 3:00-4:30 pm. Mali 1. $100 (Fellows $75)

Willie Anthony Waters - The Operas of Richard Wagner & Richard Strauss
Sunday, February 6, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. $85 (Fellows $65), includes box lunch. Couples: $150 (if one is a Fellow, $120), includes box lunch.

Timothy Reagan and Humphrey Tonkin - What Is a Language?
Wednesdays, February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9. $90 (Fellows $70).

Avi Patt - The Aftermath of the Holocaust in Europe
Mondays, February 14, 21, 28, 5:00-6:30 pm. $60 (Fellows $40).

Catherine Stevenson - Dickens’ Our Mutual Friend: The Book Club
Tuesdays, February 22, March 29, April 12, 2:00-3:30 pm. $60 (Fellows $40)

Jane Barstow - Margaret Atwood’s Alias Grace
Thursdays, February 24, March 3, March 10. 2:00-3:30 pm. $60 (Fellows $40).

John Landers - Lunch with John Landers, Hertford College, Oxford
Tuesday, March 22. 12:00-2:00 pm. $40 (Fellows $30), including lunch.

Stephen Pier - An Introduction to the Dance
Wednesdays, March 30, April 6, 13, 20. 4:00-5:30 pm. $70 (Fellows $50)

Michael Lankester - Paris in the Spring: Music and Art in Paris 1855-1930
Mondays, April 4, 11, 25, May 2, 9. 4:30-6:00 pm. $120 (Fellows $90)

Tim Black - Incarceration, Decarceration
Thursdays, April 21, 28, May 5. 5:00-6:30 pm. $60 (Fellows $40).

Humphrey Tonkin and Bernard Cornwell - Shakespeare’s English Kings
Fridays, March 25, April 8, 15, 22, 29
May 6. 1:30-3:00 pm. $120 (Fellows $90).

To register or for details on programs, visit http://www.hartford.edu/presidentscollege
University Libraries Donors – July 1, 2010 to November 17, 2010

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Art School
Helen Risom Belluschi
Eleanor Bielak
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A. Richard Brayer
Peter Breit
Bridge Publications, Inc.
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Eleanor Caplan
Catherine Certo
College Board
Connecticut Library Consortium
Ann Courtney
Patricia Cremins
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Diane P. Reeve Literary Trust
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Linda Young
A Home is on the Horizon

All the colleges at the University of Hartford have a place. This place could be an entire building, a part of a building, or maybe even a classroom within the Mortensen Library. A few years ago when the President’s College (PC) fell under the University Libraries’ administrative umbrella it became obvious to many that the PC was lacking this place. Judy Kacmarcik has been a master mind in reserving classes for the PC all over campus. That has worked nicely but it didn’t create a home - this place — something special — something their own.

At the same time, the Reference Department could no longer keep up the demand for use of the Woods Family Classroom for Learning and Instruction. The Woods Classroom is extremely popular and is used heavily by the Libraries, Faculty Center for Learning Development, PC, individual faculty members, Development, Emeriti Faculty, and a host place for other meetings and training.

The Mortensen Board of Visitors (MBV), the Libraries advisory board, took up the call to fund a new space that could serve many but especially the PC, Emeriti, and the Reference Department. Out of the graciousness of the MBV and especially of one member in particular, a brand new state-of-the-art seminar space is being constructed on the main level of the Mortensen. This space will be built to serve the University community now and well into the future. Technology will be built within the walls, ceilings and floors to host lecture capture and streaming as well as class lectures, presentations, and demonstrations.

A committee was formed with University staff from across campus to design this new place. Peter Chow from Oak Park Architects was chosen to design the area. As you can see the concept designs that the seminar room will be designed to allow the most flexibility possible in any given space. Please remember the final design elements have not been selected. However, the committee has been soliciting opinions from the PC, FCLD, Reference, and faculty who have used the Woods Classroom.

The renovation schedule has been set for the very first stages of demolition and wall building to begin during spring break 2011. This will be followed with the majority of building being done in the summer. The hope is to have the new seminar space to be on-line on the the very first day of class in for the fall 2011 semester.

AND we all know what that means......................................a PARTY! ☚
It isn’t Summer until the Grill comes out!

The hot days of summer always brings out the grill and food. As George Lechner likes to say, “We are an eating organization that likes to pass ourselves off as a library”. Hot coals, good company, and great food makes a perfect lunch. ♦
Because of its new look and sleek design, the libraries' Web Standards Committee (WSC) had begun to redesign the pages, adding enhancements to make surfing the library easier for the user.

The University of Hartford christened its new web site, administered by a Content Management System (CMS) from Hannon Hill, this past January and Web Applications Developer, **Barbara Dessureau**, also the project manager for the libraries site, volunteered Universities Libraries to be one of the first sites to go live with the new look.

The University chose such a system to alleviate the problem of inconsistency with the University design and so that changes can easily be made by a designated content manager immediately. Because of its new look and sleek design, the libraries’ Web Standards Committee (WSC) had begun to redesign the pages, adding enhancements to make surfing the library easier for the user. Late last fall the site was also restructured so that it now serves as a task-based site rather than a resource-based site. The WSC meets every two weeks to review pages developed and offer suggestions for further enhancements.

The site was developed with six main categories - University Libraries, Top Tools, Find, Services, User Information and Get Help. The first section gives users easier access to Mortensen and Allen libraries, and gives prominence to the Archives as well as the other four satellite libraries developed within the University. **Top Tools** contains the most used and needed areas of the library, including Interlibrary Loan. With its newly designed cascading navigation system, any section with an arrow allows the user to click down for other sections pertinent to that category, allowing the user to retrieve a needed form quicker than reading through a web page.

In the **Find** section, users can search for several types of materials from different platforms, all available in one area. In the **Services** section, a listing pops up for services both libraries provide to its users, allowing them to search within their status, either alumni, faculty, guest, staff or student; this is found in the **User Information** section. And the **Get Help** section shows a listing of possible areas where your questions and needs are answered, including contacting a staff member. Or chose the Chat Box, available on most pages, to send a message to a live librarian that can help with an immediate problem.

The biggest addition to the site is the opening page with paths available to the library catalog, guides, journal titles, databases and articles, and reserves — all the areas students and other users need to begin their research. Designed by Sam Cook, Public Services Librarian at Allen, the search box has proven to be a valuable tool for all who use the libraries.

Another feature of the new site is the Library Search Box which will go straight to the Libraries catalog and find your materials. This feature is not just available on all library pages but on any page of the new University site.

If you want to know what is new at either library, just check out the **Randi Recommends** section. She’ll tell you when new areas of the library have been remodeled or what has been added. And check out the **Calendar of Events** to the left.

Dessureau, also chair of the University’s Web Advisory Committee (WAC), works closely with University Web Specialist Craig Campbell to keep pages consistent with University format and its identity system. The WACs meet once a month to learn of new functions for the CMS, exchange solutions the Project Managers have encountered and serves as the point group to assist other Project and Content Managers throughout the University. Other members include Craig Campbell, Office of Communications, Jason Pompaselli, A&S, Evelyne Haldimann, ITS, Bonnie Stoecklin, Career Services and Lisa Parker, ENHP.
Student Workers in the Archives - Summer 2010  – Margaret Mair

This summer two students worked in the archives. Daniel Crittenden, a University junior majoring in secondary education, began updating the buildings and grounds collection and is now working on a shipment of 34 boxes delivered from the president’s office in August. Alexandra Ghiz, a junior music major with an archives concentration at Smith College, completed an internship as part of an archives concentration at Smith. She processed the records of the Hartt Institute of Contemporary Music and of the Hartt Opera Theatre Guild dating from the 1940s through the 1980s. These materials arrived in the archives in 1995 and had been waiting 15 years to be processed.

In addition to these assignments, Alexandra and Daniel worked together to reorganize our collection of oversize scrapbooks. One set of scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings compiled by the Public Relations Department of both the original Hillyer College and the University from the 1950s through the 1980s. Another set of scrapbooks contain public relations materials issued by Hillyer and the University during the same time period. The students, with additional help from Ben Ide, Head of Technical Services, unpacked a gigantic shipment of archival materials that arrived in August. ♦

Allen Library Seminar Room Improvements  – Sam Cook

Since I last wrote an update on changes to the Allen Library seminar rooms, there have been several significant improvements. The most impressive is probably the addition of a 55-inch, wall-mounted, flat-screen TV in the large seminar room. The classes and meetings that take place in this room often involve computer-based and audio/video instruction, so having a large TV with high resolution is highly beneficial for the projection of the computer screen, a DVD, or a VHS tape.

The other big improvement to the seminar rooms is the addition of new white boards to both the large and small seminar rooms, the latter of which never had a white board prior to this. One nice feature of these white boards, considering that the seminar rooms are mostly used for music-related purposes, is the presence of music staff lines on half of each board. These lines make it easy for users to write musical notation. ♦

Mitten Tree at Mortensen Library  – Alison Rusczyk

A wonderful and much loved tradition continues at Mortensen Library, known to all as the Morty Mitten Tree. This is our fourth year and is co-sponsored by the Center for Community Service. Decorated with hundreds of colorful mittens, gloves, scarves and hats, our tree graces the lobby of Mortensen Library. Each year individuals and groups from across campus decorate the tree with their generous donations and these gifts find their way to those in need within the Greater Hartford Community. Last year’s donations were given to the South Park Inn which supports men, women and children throughout the year. This year we are proud to be helping the Salvation Army’s Marshall House, a family shelter that works to keep families intact, regardless of the ages of children. Our other organization will be The Open Hearth, a residence for men which was founded in 1884 by members of St. John’s Guild of Christ Church. Its purpose was to offer men a place to meet, read and socialize. It now offers a full time living facility and continues to respond to the ongoing needs of the homeless with innovative programs which allow men to become self-sufficient, contributing members of society.

This year the Mitten Tree will receive donations from November 29 - December 17. A hearty thank you to all who bring in a gift of warmth to our Morty Mitten Tree. ♦
George Lechner to be Honored for 20 years of Service  
– Nick Wharton

Reference Librarian, George Lechner, will be honored for his 20th year of service to the University of Hartford in 2011. George came to the Mortenson Library in 1991 as the Circulation Coordinator working with General Reserves and charging out books. After three years, George moved to the Reference Department where he still works to this day. In his early days as a Reference Assistant, he states that the department did not seem to know what Bibliographic or Reference Instruction was. Now, he is one of the chief teachers of library skills to the University of Hartford Students in a myriad of subject areas.

In 2007, George was promoted to Reference Librarian on the merits years of service to the libraries and his Academic expertise. George maintains the collections in law, politics, history, foreign language, literature, theatre, philosophy and religion. Concurrently for the past 20 years, George has been teaching as an adjunct professor in the University Studies Division of the Arts and Sciences at the University. In 2009, he earned the “Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award” in recognition of his service to the University and its students. Please congratulate George on his continued dedication to the University Libraries and the University of Hartford.

Kristina Edwards Promoted  
– Ben Ide

It’s my distinct honor and privilege to announce the promotion of Kristina Edwards to the position of Acquisitions Librarian. Kristina started working at the University Libraries as a student assistant. She graduated from the University of Hartford, started working in the library at University of Southern Maine, and we were fortunate enough to hire her back as a full time employee five years later. Throughout, she has been learning more and more about every position in librarianship. This past year, Kristina graduated with a masters degree in Library Science from Simmons College. This is both the culmination and introduction of Kristina’s work and career in librarianship. She stands poised on the threshold of professional service, but really, this is the level and quality of service she has been delivering all along. Kristina was born to help people — coworkers and students alike — and is a team player in every sense of the phrase. Congratulations, Kristina!

Jennifer Olson Promoted  
– Tracey Rudnick

The University Libraries are pleased to announce that Jennifer Olson has been promoted to Allen Library Technical Services Librarian. In her new position she oversees cataloging and processing of music- and dance-related materials, and supervises the Allen Library’s Cataloging Coordinator and several student employees. The position collaborates closely with other library staff to ensure that specialized materials can be effectively found and used by students, staff, and faculty. Previously Jennifer held two Allen Library positions: Technical Services Coordinator (2001-2008) and Senior Cataloger (2008-2010).

Jennifer recently earned her Master’s degree in Library and Information Science from Simmons College; she already held a Master of Music in Composition from Butler University and a Bachelor of Music in Composition from Minnesota State University at Moorhead. Over the years Jennifer has proven to be smart, hard working, knowledgeable, and concerned about offering good service. As a team member she readily assists colleagues when support or expertise are needed. This promotion formally launches Jennifer’s career as a professional librarian — and we look forward to great things over the years — but those close to Jennifer know that this is just a continuation of a practice already begun. Please join us in congratulating Jennifer!
Ten years ago, I was a freshman at the Hartt School. During my first semester, I had to attend three hour-long library classes at the Allen Library and write an annotated bibliography. At the conclusion of the semester, I promptly forgot most of what I had learned. This was for HLM 020: Information Literacy in the Performing Arts, a required course for all first-year Hartt students. Eight years later, I was teaching it.

During my time away from the University, HLM 020 had become an online course. This was a more sustainable model, given the staff size at the Allen Library. Since this online course was nearly the same as the in-person class, it shared the same pitfalls. There were only four assignments with minimal reading, so students often forgot the material as soon as the class ended and many students simply forgot to complete the assignments.

The current Allen staff (and our predecessors) wanted to see a more involved course. This summer, after two years of my teaching the course, and with vacancies filled at the Allen Library, we were ready to tackle an overhaul of HLM 020. We proceeded with the blessing of the Hartt Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The biggest changes are as follows:

- At many points in the semester, the class is broken out into music, dance, actor training, and music theatre, allowing the assignments to be tailored to the needs of each program.
- Students now have small amounts of reading to do nearly every week of the semester. This allows the students to absorb the content at a more appropriate pace.
- While the course still has four main unit tests, they are no longer multiple choice, so the students really have to understand the content. Every week that does not have a unit test has a very short quiz, just to make sure students understood the reading for that week. The course ends with a final test, providing a third level of assessment to show that the students not only learned the content, but that they retained it.
- The readings are more interactive than in the past. They include detailed pictures of resources, screenshots of online tools, videos on how to use specific resources, and more.
- In a desire to interact with the students in person, I have been hosting optional extra-credit sessions prior to each unit test. These sessions give the attendees an opportunity to receive in-person instruction and ask questions about the readings.

As I write this article, only the final test remains for this semester. Although final numbers will have to wait until the semester is over, all signs point to this overhaul being a success. It appears that 85%-90% of the students will pass, which is higher than in previous years. Out of the 207 students enrolled this semester, more than 70 (over one third of the class) have attended the optional extra-credit sessions. This has been a great opportunity for me to meet the newest class of dance, music, and theatre students from the Hartt School.

It has been a huge endeavor to redesign this entire online course, but I am confident that it will be well worth it. As these students continue in their university careers, I hope we find them to be well versed in these basic research practices and library resources, and ready to build on these skills in their other courses. ◆
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