Snap Shot Day - Connecticut Libraries

On February 18, 2010 more than 80,000 people walked through the doors of Connecticut libraries. If you do the math, that’s more than 24 million people a year who visit our libraries, big and small. The numbers speak for themselves:

- 80,616 people visited Connecticut libraries
- 113,143 people visited Connecticut library websites
- 99,537 books, movies and other materials were borrowed from our libraries
- 12,982 people used library computers
- 8,960 reference questions were answered

All across the state, libraries are the cornerstones of their communities, places where people come together to visit, learn and share ideas. Here are a few snap shots from University Libraries.
Koha Update

One of the most visible things about working with an open source library system is the amount of change that happens. Unlike many vendor provided systems, an open source system like Koha is dynamic. New features are created and older features are tweaked or revamped to suit the users needs. The newest features with our installation include improvements to course reserves functionality, call number browsing, more options for staff in creating reports, and better display of results information in the OPAC.

There have been many other changes recently with our WALDO consortium installation of Koha. Perhaps the biggest one is that LibLime, the company contracted by WALDO to host and enhance Koha, has been bought by another company. PTFS, LibLime’s new owner, is a much larger information automation vendor based in Washington, DC. They are best know within the government as a primary source of data management tools but have also been a provider of open source solutions to academic and public libraries.

Normally, a corporate buyout of a library software provider is bad news. After all, rampant conglomeration is one of the reasons we left our last vendor. But this is different. PTFS has agreed to keep all of our support representatives from LibLime. They are even keeping the LibLime brand name, at least for now. And they have contracted with the president of LibLime, Joshua Ferrara, to do additional programming work on our Koha installation. Plus, PTFS has a larger infrastructure for deployment and customer service.

The saddest news of change at WALDO is the unexpected passing of John Garino, Associate Director of Systems at St. John’s University. John was an active member on the Koha project from day one, helped to design and write many of the specifications for improvements, and served on the WALDO Board of Directors and the Koha Steering Committee. I have been asked to take his place on the Steering Committee, but no one can really replace him. In accepting this position, I hope to help guide development and represent the needs of the University of Hartford Libraries.

Reference on the Move Again

When the Goodwin Café was built, the Mortensen Reference Department was relocated to the old Interlibrary Loan Office; a large office, tucked out of the way, hard to find. All is being corrected this summer! The Mortensen Reference Department will be getting a brand new office space located directly across from their reference materials and in close proximity to the iCOMMONS area and the students. Their new office will have walls with lots of glass to see out and folks to see in.

As many of you know, this is the first step in the next renovation project within Mortensen — the creation of a new state-of-the-art conference and seminar space. Currently, this space is used by Reference but, as soon as the department is relocated to their new office — the existing area will be gutted and from the flames will spring the new home for the President’s College and seminar space for the van Rooy Center for Complexity, Faculty Center for Learning Development and a teaching space for Reference. Our existing classroom, The Woods Family Center, has become in such demand that we can no longer keep pace with the needs. Over 7,000 people were in that space in fy09.

This project moved faster than we anticipated, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of two anonymous donors in particular and many of the Mortensen Library Board Members. The new space will link the President’s College more firmly with the Library and also increase the College’s sense of its involvement in the life of the Library.
Student Merit Awards

Every April, the Mortensen Library Board of Visitors recognizes six outstanding student employees from the University Libraries. This spring’s winners represent the Allen and Mortensen Libraries. They received their awards and gift certificates from the University Bookstore at the April 27th meeting of the Board.

Matthew DelCiampo, Senior, BM, Percussion and Music Management, is one of our absolute best students when it comes to interacting with patrons and satisfying their needs. He greets everyone with a smile. Matt is always willing and able to switch tasks at a moment’s notice to accommodate the changing needs of the patrons and staff. We never hesitate to leave him in charge if we need leave the library for staff meetings, knowing that his work will get done even without supervisors present, and that he is fully capable of effectively handling patron requests. We have been able to assign Matt some fairly complex projects, which he has handled admirably and without complaint.

Samantha Edington, Sophomore, BA, Rhetoric and Professional Writing, has worked at the Circulation Desk at the Mortensen Library for the past two years. Mostly working in the evening hours, the busiest times for our libraries, she has been an amazing asset to our evening staff. She is friendly and courteous while helping patrons and has helped with numerous projects. Her attention to detail and efficient manner has helped us assist patrons through our latest transition to Koha. We are fortunate to have had the pleasure of working with Samantha these past years and look forward to another two years working with her.

Andrea Goldstein, Senior, BA, English, is a Reference Assistant at the Mortensen Library. Though she has worked with us a short time, she is one of our most knowledgeable student workers. While covering our Reference Desk, she helps numerous patrons with questions ranging from the simple questions (Where is this book?) to advanced questions (introducing a patron to a library database). She is a model student worker, never missing a shift and filling in for others when they can’t work their shift. One of her supervisors also points out that she is “cheerful at the desk and is assertive in answering questions posed by patrons”. She has been an invaluable asset to us and we have no doubt that when she graduates that she will succeed in whatever endeavors lie ahead for her.

Matthew Hambor, Senior, BA, Business Administration, is a Reference Assistant at the Mortensen Library and has worked with us for the past two years. As a Reference Assistant, he serves as the frontline to our Reference Services answers a variety of reference questions. He works hard to answer all questions and refers only the most extensive reference questions to the Reference Staff, allowing the Reference staff to work on creating and improving services for our patrons. He was also very helpful when we extended our hours by covering some of these new shifts that last until 1:30am allowing us to maintain a good level of service. Matthew has been an important part of our reference team and he will be missed when he graduates this spring.

Claudia Rosenthal, Senior, BM, Vocal Performance, came to us as an already very accomplished student, having graduated cum laude from Yale in Music and Art History in 2008. Claudia’s service to patrons is consistently outstanding in quality, and she will go the extra mile to make sure tasks are completed properly and patrons are satisfied. She is a self-starter who does not need to be asked to take care of tasks, and has worked independently on complex projects, even fixing her co-workers’ mistakes without prompting. When she finishes her assigned tasks, Claudia has been known to volunteer to do extra shelving duties.

Robert Joseph Rumrill, Senior, BM, Composition is consistent, reliable, flexible and self-motivated are the descriptive terms that came up most in Joe’s recommendation for this award. Joe frequently finds tasks to do before they are even assigned to him, and if patrons need assistance, Joe does whatever it takes to make sure they get whatever materials they need. His supervisor said, “Desk workers are usually the first person patrons see and interact within the library, so it is a very important position. He takes this seriously and is one of the students I trust the most when it comes to representing the library.”
Catalogers follow nationally established rules and encoding standards, creating high-quality catalog descriptions that make it easier to find music. At the same time, library staff work toward designing web search boxes and displays that take full advantage of excellent music cataloging. This includes U of H’s new library catalog, Koha, and WorldCat, the database that allows searchers to request interlibrary loans from other libraries.

To help music library personnel tackle these problems, the Music Library Association (MLA) and Music OCLC Users Group meet annually to provide education and implement modern solutions. (Medical and law librarians have similar organizations.) In case readers are wondering, “OCLC” is a massive library organization—an “Online Computer Library Center”—that allows libraries across the country to share cataloging records and conserve labor. OCLC also brings us our beloved WorldCat database. The Music OCLC Users Group ensures that music’s unique needs are addressed in OCLC’s products and services.

Several themes emerged at this year’s MLA and MOUG meetings in San Diego:

First, many libraries (including U of H, with its new system, Koha) are working with new “next generation” library catalogs. Even WorldCat is being redesigned! Many libraries are experiencing the same growing pains: search and display for music does not function very well ... not yet. This is normal for new catalogs. Music librarians across the country will work closely with their vendors to fix this. It will be quite the race to see who succeeds first!

Second, music librarians are rethinking the approach to music cataloging. Current cataloging rules and codes were state-of-the-art years ago, but the Web 2.0 revolution (think Google, Amazon, and Facebook) requires a twenty-first-century approach. Users want—and expect—powerful tools that are easy, quick, and sensible, even for complex music searches. Library professionals have been hammering out new theoretical approaches that will do a better job meeting these needs. At this year’s MLA meeting we saw models demonstrating how the principles work in real life, and prototypes are underway. Our library staff will follow developments and consider adopting those of greatest potential benefit to our library users.

In the meantime, the Allen Library catalog staff (Jennifer Olson and Andrew King) carefully and knowledgably catalog music to make it as “findable as possible.” This includes applying standardized titles and entering tables of contents for music. More recently staff have added links to streamed audio files, provided codes to make it easier to find music by instrument, and cleaned up old problems. Some of this helps searchers right away, and some of it positions the libraries for the future. Their hard work and exciting new developments will make music not just easier to find, but easier to research.

From the Allen Library Head: Behind the Catalog’s Curtain  — Tracey Rudnick
Cyndi Adamo, Serials Specialist for the University Libraries, was accepted and just started taking classes at Southern Connecticut State University towards a masters degree in library science. Cyndi has been working in Technical Services since 2008 and knew when she started that a career in library science was for her. We are very proud of her achievement and wish her luck with all her classwork!

Entering her 30th year of continuous service at the University of Hartford Libraries, Anna Bigazzi has shifted, changed and re-arranged her office locations, her job titles as well as the pliable minds of many students. Anna started her university career at the Anne Bunce Cheney Library housed in the Hartford Art School hired as the Art Assistant. In 1989 the Cheney Library moved from the Art School to the third floor of the Mortensen Library. Promoted to Art Coordinator in 1992 while she pursued her Master’s in Library Science degree from Southern Connecticut State University (1996), Anna continued to care for, maintain and build the Art Library’s Collection. At the same time, Anna became the conservator of the collection fixing books and preserving materials for the University Libraries. As the Mortensen Library and the Art Library grew and expanded, more and more of the separate Art Libraries Collections merged with the general collection. By 2005, Anna’s Art Library position merged with the Mortensen Library and the position became officially, the Art Reference Librarian. I have had the pleasure of supervising Anna for the past three years. I believe that her greatest challenge and the one met head on was becoming a teacher of Information Skills to students of all subjects and caliber. Please celebrate her 30 years of service by giving thanks to an amazing resource at the University, Anna Bigazzi.

Sam Cook was appointed to the Music Library Association’s Emerging Technologies and Services Committee. This committee identifies, evaluates, and coordinates the exchange of information about trends, tools, services, and developments relating to solutions and systems used in libraries, with special attention paid to the handling of music materials. This committee will dovetail nicely with Sam’s current job responsibilities and will provide opportunities for Sam to shape the profession at the national level. Please join us in congratulating Sam!

In May 2010, Allen Library Senior Cataloger Jennifer Olson completed coursework and was awarded a Master of Science in Library and Information Science from the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS). She attended in-person and online classes starting in February 2006 primarily at Simmons’s “West” campus at the Mount Holyoke College Libraries in South Hadley, Massachusetts. Jennifer already held a Master of Music in Composition from Butler University and a Bachelor of Music in Composition from Minnesota State University at Moorhead, and has worked in the University Libraries for nine years. Please join us in congratulating Jennifer for her significant achievement!

For anyone who walks into the Mortensen Library during the week, you are sure to be greeted with cheer by Alison Rusczyk at the Circulation Desk. For five years at the University of Hartford, Alison has been the early morning face to students scurrying in to print off their paper before class or the professor needing a video to show in his next class. Alison had never worked in a library before coming to Mortensen, now, Alison really helps make the library function smoothly. She has become the first face of the library as well as the stacks coordinator, the reserves specialist and the one who has the keys to the place. The patrons who come seeking knowledge or directions, a good book, a quiet place to stay or simply having their book stamped for a 28-day loan, also feel at ease when they walk in and are greeted by an upbeat staff member who is interested in taking good care of them. Please celebrate Alison’s fifth year at the University by shooting her a smile and a wave as you walk by the Circulation Desk on your next visit to the Mortensen Library.
University Libraries Donors – July 1, 2009 to May 14, 2010

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The morning kicked off with keynote speaker, Dr. Barbara Tillett, Chief of the Policy and Standards Division for the Library of Congress. Her presentation was on the use of controlled vocabularies for the semantic web which supplied the theme for the rest of the day’s presentations centered around RDA (Resource Description and Access), the new proposed cataloging code set to replace AACR2 (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules). Emphasis was given on initiatives underway at the Library of Congress including VIAF (Virtual Authority File) and SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organization Schema).
Attending the Music Library Association conference this year was a dramatically different experience from last year. Perhaps the most noticeable difference was the change of scenery from Chicago in February to San Diego in March. We traded last year’s freezing temperatures and biting wind for the sun and palm trees of Southern California. Despite the temptation to enjoy the non-Connecticut-like weather by lounging on a beach for the duration of the conference, I was kept busy by sessions, meetings, volunteer work for the organization, and various networking opportunities (okay, I did take a few minutes to drink a soda at the beach).

I was able to attend a wide range of sessions this year, on topics such as best practices for online content, distance teaching, information literacy as part of a curriculum, new features in RILM (a heavily used music-related database), and even alternative popular music in Tijuana. One of the sessions that I found the most enjoyable was a “lightning round” session on emerging technologies. The presenters in this session gave a series of quick demonstrations on new technologies and some discussed how they were using them in their libraries.

One of the more interesting topics discussed at this session was the Music Encoding Initiative (MEI). MEI is a code that uses text to describe all aspects of a musical score, down to the direction of a note’s stem. While there have been other projects that seek to achieve the same goal, most notably MusicXML, MEI sets itself apart by encompassing a much wider range of musical notation. Instead of being limited to “standard” notation, it can also be used for medieval and Renaissance notation, lute tablature, the various types of notation used in the twentieth century, and more. The implications of a code such as this are far reaching. If a substantial number of works were coded, one could even identify a piece of unknown music by simply knowing just a small portion.

A session on information literacy and critical thinking was especially appropriate, as we are currently examining how to improve the breadth and depth of our user education. One particularly interesting concept presented in this session was the idea of giving more instruction to the faculty, so that they can then integrate information literacy into their curriculums. While this would, by no means, replace library instruction, it could help push more information out to a wider audience.

Breakout sessions included “Managing Objects and Data: From Call Numbers to Name Spaces,” “Mapping Bibliographic Metadata,” “Tradition, Transition, and Transformation: A Look at Next Generation Library Systems,” “Metadata 101,” “Go Fish! How to Catch and Clean MARC Records Using Z39.50 and MarcEdit,” and “Another Full Service Bibliographic Utility for Cataloging: Why This Matters.” All the sessions I attended were engaging and many heated discussions circled around the room regarding MARC (MAchine-Readable Cataloging). I believe the general consensus was MARC is not dead yet!

The final presentation of the day “Creating a Trillion-Field Catalog: Metadata in Google Books” was given by Jon Orwant, Engineering Manager for Google Books, Google Magazines, and Google Patents. It was an excellent presentation which put all the day’s sessions into perspective. It was a great presentation encompassing everything from how Google Books images are generated, the book scanning process, to relying on good clean Library catalog records for Google’s indexing purposes.

I left the conference feeling energized thinking about all the wonderful possibilities lying in wait for catalogers! Until RDA becomes reality, catalogers around the globe will need to keep MARC alive and aim to the best of our abilities to make our catalog records the best that they can be!
Inventory the entire collection, impossible! That is what we said to ourselves before switching our new Integrated Library System (ILS), our online catalog. When we switched to the Koha ILS in July of 2009, we knew we were getting away from big companies who don’t listen to the needs of even our moderate sized institution. Koha has provided us with a stable, web based ILS. An added feature is the ability to build Sequel queries in the Reporting module in order to generate all kinds of lists and statistics. Kristina Edwards, Ed Bernstein and I have developed a report that allows us to get a list of each and every book (more than 600,000 volumes) that is supposed to be on our shelves.

Ed and I practiced searching from the lists we generated biting off small chunks of the collection. Kristina, meanwhile created a search that allowed us to pinpoint parts of the collection according to the initial letters of the Library of Congress Call Number System. When the list is converted into an Excel spreadsheet, one has to manipulate some of the quirky call numbers to read in the same manner as the shelf. For example, Excel puts the call number H1077 before H2. The “1077” part of the call number reads as a decimal place. So, some re-arranging is required. The Sequel report brings back the Call Number, Barcode, Volume #, Title, Lost status, and due date. Some call numbers have obvious typos and can be fixed immediately by copying the barcode into a Koha search and fixing the call number in the Cataloging module.

I knew that the Social Sciences area was in need of weeding due to an aging collection so I began creating lists for the call numbers between H and HZ. Following the list can drive you batty, but so can the number of books that were only slightly out of place. The books that were not on the shelf, I made missing in the ILS. Some of those turned up a day or two later mis-shelved further along, but many are just lost through attrition or thievery. I have made about 250 books missing from the collection. But, that pales to the numbers for what I found or fixed.

Some of the things I found astonished me. Every 200 books or so, we would have one book that did not exist on the list. Most of the time the barcode was one from an older ILS system from the 1980’s and never updated. Some had no barcodes at all. Others had current barcodes that had somehow been dropped from our system. Still others had call numbers in the system that were different from those on the spine. And in one particular instance, I found a book perfectly shelved by the call number, but it belonged to the University of Connecticut - Storrs library. It had a due date of stamp of 1999. We returned the wayward book immediately.

We have completed an inventory of roughly half of the third floor of Mortensen Library. Two entire sections, call number DA and E’s were like Swiss Cheese in the collection. We re-added nearly 1,000 books from each of those sections and fixed call numbers for several hundred, making the call number online match the book spine. A few hundred more books were designated to be relabeled as the spines have grown unreadable over the years.

This project has allowed us to create some space in each shelf as we were able to remove nearly 1,000 volumes that were either duplicates or earlier editions of works. This culling or weeding of the collection is a necessary evil of a growing collection like ours. Try justifying new purchases into areas that have no more room on the shelves. And one major complaint for most libraries is that the material is “too old.”

Since early November, call numbers (A through HZ) and the Judaica Collection have been checked. All records have been updated and any labels or mending of the books has been completed. A team is currently looking at the N section for Art and the P sections for Literature. I expect that we will continue to rediscover some old friends and really get a handle on the collection with the goal of having what we own available and findable, and what we no longer own clearly marked so that we don’t run around looking for ghosts of the collection past.

This project has allowed us to create some space in each shelf as we were able to remove nearly 1,000 volumes that were either duplicates or earlier editions of works.
President’s College Gift to University Community

One never knows what the President’s College will come up with, since they are amazingly creative. On March 5 the President’s College, under the leadership of Nancy Mather, partnered with Luisa DaCosta Machado and physicians of the Hartford Hospital along with the reunion committee for the Hartford College for Women alums to present A Women’s Health Portrait: Awareness and Empowerment.

Today, women find themselves sandwiched between generations. It is not unusual for a woman to pay more attention to her child’s or an aging parent’s health than to themselves. The speakers for the morning were Amy K. Brown, MD - Robotic Surgery in Gynecologic Oncology and Gynecology; Patricia A. DeFusco, MD - Breast Cancer: Evolving Strategies in Imaging, Prevention and Treatment; Donna M. Polk, MD - Women and Heart Disease.

The morning was spent in an extremely informative and comfortable setting complete with humor, sensitivity and a wonderful breakfast.

In Memoriam - David LaBau  

David LaBau was one of the most active and involved members of the Mortensen Library Board of Visitors and a great friend of the University. I first met him soon after I came to Hartford twenty years ago when Stecker LaBau, as his firm was then called, did some work for the University. We have remained in contact ever since. He and his wife Gretchen accompanied me on one of the President’s College trips to England some years ago and they have participated in many President’s College events over the years.

David’s obituary as it appeared in the Courant says much about his distinguished professional career and his work as a member of the community, but it is not so easy to convey a sense of personal acquaintance in such a context. There were two characteristics of David as a person that I would like to allude to, and a third that underlay the other two.

First, David was a learner. We all like to learn, but for David learning was a passion. On our trip to England, my explanations of this or that historical event, or on the details of whatever site we were visiting, were never sufficient; David was always there asking additional questions, wanting to understand, eager to get things straight in his head. One could almost see him rearranging his mental furniture to accommodate a new piece of information.

Second, David had a playful sense of irony that made him a pleasure to be around. He always had an original angle to offer on the particularities of a conversation, always had a sparkle in his eye. He was always ready to play the straight man – as long as one gave him a chance to reverse roles. In his humor he displayed the intelligence and wit of someone who enjoyed living and who caused others to do the same.

But underlying these characteristics was a third quality: a strong strain of personal integrity and decency that made him a person one could trust. His were old-world values, rare in the world today. His generosity in assisting the University as it created and expanded its Architecture program is well known. He carried this spirit of generosity with him to everything that he did.

So we will miss him greatly, yet remember his presence and his contribution over the years with pleasure and appreciation. To Gretchen and her family we offer our deepest sympathies.
**A Homecoming for Women at HCW**

The Welfund at the University of Hartford, the successor to Hartford College for Women, sponsored “A Homecoming for Women in March.” The University Archives contributed images and a historical blog to the celebration.

The HCW collection is one of the largest in the University archives. When HCW merged with the University, the college already had an archive in place. Thus, the history of Hartford College for Women (HCW) has been well-documented. Outside researchers as well as University staff have already used the collection.

Hartford College for Women played an important part in the history of higher education for women in the United States and was one of the finest providers of single sex education in its day. The college began as “Mount Holyoke in Hartford” to provide the first two years of an academically challenging curriculum to young women who could not afford to attend a four year residential college. Many students eventually completed four year degrees elsewhere.

Classes were originally held at the Hartford YWCA. In 1939 the college moved to a house on Scarborough Street. In 1959 the college moved from Scarborough Street to the former Seaverns estate on the corner of Elizabeth and Asylum Streets.

The college had several names including Mount Holyoke in Hartford, Hartford Junior College, Hartford College, and Hartford College for Women. The campus is now known as the Asylum Avenue Campus of the University of Hartford.

By 1980s the cost of maintaining the college had increased astronomically. Moreover, most young women seeking single-sex education chose to enroll in four year programs such as those provided by St. Joseph’s in West Hartford or Smith and Mt. Holyoke in Massachusetts. With mixed emotions, the leadership of HCW agreed to affiliate with the University of Hartford in 1990. In May 2003, the undergraduate section was closed by the University and the students and faculty were assigned to other colleges. The Welfund was created to continue the legacy of HCW in a new ways.

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**PeaceJam Conference**

The University was the host to hundreds of high school and college students who convened at the University of Hartford for the 2010 PeaceJam Northeast Youth Conference. PeaceJam is an international movement that brings young people together with Nobel Peace laureates, inspiring and educating them to become leaders in working for social justice and peace.

On March 26, 2010, the Mortensen Library was the host to Nobel Peace Laureate Adolfo Pérez Esquivel and throughout the weekend the library was used for breakout and educational sessions. Esquivel, a native of Argentina, was one of the thousands of “Depaparecidos” imprisoned and tortured without cause for 14 months by the Argentine military junta during what became known as the “Dirty War”. His life was saved by a letter-writing campaign, when Amnesty International declared him the 1978 International Political Prisoner of the Year.

Esquivel received the 1980 Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in promoting fundamental human rights and true democracy for the peoples of Latin America. He continues this important work today, focusing on breaking the cycle of violence among those who live in extreme poverty, and campaigning for debt relief for lesser-developed countries.

The University presented Esquivel with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. It was a true honor for the University Libraries to be asked to participate in this event.
President’s College Showcase 2010

Showcase 2010 is the biggest event that the President’s College puts on — with an amazing array of programs to suit every taste and challenge every intellect.

President’s College

Showcase 2010

Back to College for a Day!

September 19, 2010
9:30am - 4:30pm

A day-long program of lectures and discussions with leading University of Hartford professors:

Eighteen lectures and discussions in six blocks of three, running all day, and featuring a wide range of topics, including history, literature, art, music, technology, creative writing, health, public policy, sport, languages, and much more.

Registration $90 Fellows; $140 others

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For more information, contact Judy Kacmarcik, 860.768.4269 or pcollege@hartford.edu

www.hartford.edu/presidentscollege

Courses held on the University of Hartford campus
President’s College Announces 2010-2011 Program

The President’s College at the University of Hartford is the outreach program of the University Libraries. We offer non-credit courses and other educational events for adults. Participants get a unique entrée to the finest teachers at the University and to the University’s wide range of programming in the visual and performing arts, athletics, and other activities.

You can sign up for individual courses at the standard rate or become a Fellow of the President’s College ($100 annually) and enjoy special discounts on courses, free parking on campus, borrowing privileges at the University Library, and other advantages.

Here’s some of what we have in store for the coming academic year. Details will be announced in the coming months.

- Historian Michael Robinson on the history of exploration
- Michael Lankester on Paris and the birth of modernism in music
- Virginia Hale on Chaucer
- Monthly lectures in the Fridays at the Mortensen series
- Political scientist Jilda Aliotta on the US Supreme Court
- Catherine Stevenson and Dianne Harrison on Dickens’ Our Mutual Friend
- Malcolm Morrison and Humphrey Tonkin on Coram Boy
- Monthly lectures in the Tuesdays at Duncaster series
- Willie Anthony Waters on the operas of Puccini
- “Courses Without Quizzes” during this year’s Homecoming Weekend
- “Showcase” on September 19

Other course leaders will include musicologist Michael Schiano, art historian Patrick McCaughey, broadcaster Colin McEnroe, medievalist Kathleen McGrory, historian Robert Churchill, linguist Timothy Reagan, and others.

The English Department’s Bryan Sinche will lead a Moby-Dick Book Club. Conversations are continuing with the American School for the Deaf about offering another course on deaf culture. We are also preparing courses on technology and the sciences to be offered in both the fall and the spring. And Humphrey Tonkin and Malcolm Morrison will lead another theatre trip to London (November 12-19).

Fridays at the Mortensen
A series of monthly gatherings in the University Library for President’s College participants, including dinner and a lecture by a visiting speaker. Stay in touch with the President’s College community, meet friends, and exchange ideas!

Tuesdays at Duncaster
A monthly program specially arranged by the President’s College at Duncaster Retirement Community, Bloomfield, for residents and visitors, including a wine and cheese reception, dinner, and a lecture by a visiting speaker.
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