Allen Library Celebrates 75 Years  
— Tracey Rudnick

The Mildred P. Allen Memorial Library celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2013. Today it has more than 85,000 items related to music, dance, and the performing arts. It was founded in 1938 as “the Hartt Library,” and moved to the University of Hartford campus with The Hartt School in 1957 to the Alfred C. Fuller Music Center. In 1963 the library was named as a permanent memorial to Mildred P. Allen, who was Connecticut Secretary of State (1955-1959), a Republican National Convention delegate (1956), a pianist, music lover, friend of Hartt, and one of the University’s founders. The library moved to the Harry Jack Gray Center, above Wilde Auditorium, in 1989. Today the Allen Library is a vibrant part of the University Libraries. While it primarily serves needs of The Hartt School, its collections, services, and facilities are open to the entire University community. Look for more in our next issue of Resources.

Photos
2. Allen Library dedication and portrait unveiling (Nov. 15, 1963), with Mrs. George Lane (Allen Memorial Fund co-chair), Governor John Dempsey, Hartt School co-founder Moshe Paranov, Chancellor Vincent B. Coffin, and portrait painter Furman Finck. Not in photo: Allen committee chair and former governor John Lodge. More than 300 people attended the ceremony, including community dignitaries and university regents. (Courant photo by Maurice Murray.)
3. Hartt School, 187 Broad Street (ca. 1942).
5. The Allen Memorial Fund committee strove to equip the Allen Library at the new Fuller Center (ca. 1963). More than 1200 people contributed to the Allen Memorial Fund. Pictured: Mrs. George Lane, Governor Dempsey, Secretary of State Ella Grasso, and Chancellor Vincent B Coffin.
8. Mildred P. Allen (original photograph by John Haley was basis for painted portrait by Furman Finck).

Photos from the University of Hartford Archives.
Most archivists today would identify with this quotation from the Red Queen in *Through the Looking Glass*, “It takes all the running you can do just to stand in one place. To get anywhere you would have to run twice as fast.”

One of the most challenging issues facing academic archivists today is that of the growing number of “born-digital” records. A born-digital record is one that was created in a digital format without ever having existed in print form. Photographs taken with digital cameras and online newsletters are examples of born-digital items. The born-digital dilemma has most recently emerged in the University archives with the transition of the University Bulletin (sometimes called “the catalog”) to an online-only format for the 2012-2013 academic year.

The archives contains print version of the *Bulletin* dating back to the early days of Hartford Art School in the late 19th century. We also have sets of catalogs for original Hillyer, The Hartt School, Hartford College for Women, and the Ward School of Electronics. These Bulletins may be the most important reference source we have about the history of the University and its predecessor schools.

We can use the Bulletins to trace the careers of faculty and staff as well as the advent of courses and academic programs. Using the *Bulletin*, we can research how departments and schools were organized at different stages. However, beginning this year, this kind of research will need to be conducted online.

Assuming that the online Bulletins remain accessible for years to come, this may not be a problem. Searching online is often quicker and more effective than wading through years and years of old print volumes to find one small bit of information about when a professor came to the University or when an administrator retired.

The digital dilemma is becoming more complicated when we consider that many universities now issue student newspapers and even yearbooks exclusively online. No one knows for sure how these resources will be accessed in the future. The University has published its *UNotes* online for many years and back issues of those *UNotes* only exist in digital form. So the University will need to develop a digital archiving strategy to decide what information to preserve online for the future.

One final point is very important. Digital imaging is not a preservation technique. Digital records often have a much shorter life than print resources. Print resources do degrade over time, but much more slowly than digital images, which tend to become obsolete very quickly. Every time a new program or storage process comes into play, digital records must be reconfigured to be accessible in the new system. This can be a time consuming and very complex process calling for new knowledge and skills.

Today, library and archives training programs are turning out a whole new generation of digital archivists who will spend their careers in front of computers, reformatting and cataloging digital photographs and records. The knowledge and skill required of this new generation is highly sophisticated and far more complex than the archiving techniques of the past. These new archivists may be found working in information technology departments, working from home, or working from locations around the world.

Needless to say, all these developments have led to a degree of uncertainty in the archives profession. While we will always have some traditional paper archives holdings, we are going to have a much larger sphere of born-digital records to manage in the future. ◆
Student Merit Awards

The University Libraries Board of Visitors annually sponsors student merit awards, which are given to student library workers who have demonstrated outstanding service and commitment. The award is given at a luncheon in conjunction with the Board’s spring meeting.

Christina Amendola
Christina “Chrissy” Amendola is a senior education major who works in the Reference Department in the Mortensen Library. Chrissy has been a strong purveyor of information to her fellow students and all patrons of the Mortensen Library over the past four years. She loves the library and is relied on to provide frontline reference service at times when there are very few librarians in the library. Often, Chrissy has worked alone and without supervision and has taken initiative to learn about the databases and resources we offer to better help the patrons. For the first three years, Chrissy took pretty much the same shift. However this year, Chrissy volunteered to adjust her “normal” shift and take on a very different slot. She will utilize the skills honed in classwork and helping patrons at the desk to become a teacher upon graduating from the University. I was pleased to nominate her for outstanding work in the Reference Department at the Mortensen Library.

Thuy Nguyen
Thuy works at Allen Library and is a senior majoring in music management. She works both in public and technical services and excels in both roles. She has clearly made her work at the library a priority in her life, second only to her role as a student. She is always willing to take on shifts for other students, often at the last minute. In technical services, Thuy is one of our most productive and meticulous workers. She strives to make the most aesthetically pleasing final product that she can. When a supervisor suggests a new way to do something, she pays careful attention and enthusiastically follows, often asking thoughtful questions to help understand the instructions more clearly. She strives to make sure that patrons find what they need when working for public services, and when working in technical services she is able to focus and get things done. Thuy is always asking what else she can do to help when she is here. When she works a desk shift and there are not many patrons, Thuy comes to technical services to find a project to work on to occupy the time between patrons. She has shown a strong interest in maintaining the integrity of the library. Thuy is pleasant to work with, and has been seen handling difficult patrons with a calm demeanor, offering possible solutions and referring them to appropriate resources. She talks about wanting to make the library a better place, and wanting each item she processes to be a thing of beauty. We are very fortunate to have Thuy working for us.

Jessica Rugani
Jessica works at Allen Library and is a graduate student majoring in music composition. She works with the same integrity and attention to detail with which she began two years ago; her reliability goes above and beyond the definition of a good desk worker. Jessica has continually shown a strong interest in research practices using the library material. As a result, she has been able to offer comprehensive and insightful research suggestions to inquiring patrons, while still making appropriate referrals. Jessica provides the helpful and polite service.
In Memoriam

Ellsworth Strong Grant
Ellsworth Strong Grant passed away on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. He was 95 Years old. Ellsworth was born in 1917 in Wethersfield and raised in the West Hill development in West Hartford, graduating from Kingswood School in 1935.

A direct descendant of Hartford founder Thomas Hooker, Ellsworth was dedicated to the area’s history and shared its tales through several books, films and newspaper pieces, including dozens for the Courant. His books include “The City of Hartford: 1784 to 1984”, “The Colt Armory”, “Yankee Dreamers and Doers”, and “The Miracle of Connecticut.”

Ellsworth was an editor of the Hartford Newsdaily in 1939, worked for Allen Manufacturing Company from 1940–1958, serving as Vice President there for 13 years, and owned and operated the Connecticut Manifold Forms Company until 1967.

He was devoted to the town of West Hartford and to the boards he sat on. Ellsworth was a life-member on the University Board of Visitors. He was also a former president of the Connecticut Historical Society, a founder of Riverfront Recapture, and a trustee to many local museums.

Personally, I will miss my summer visits to Fenwick where we would spend glorious days at the shore followed by road trips in Ellsworth’s golf cart. Visiting Ellsworth and Virginia at Duncaster also have special memories for me. Ellsworth loved history and it showed. He will be sadly missed.

Dora Rytman
Dora Rytman, of West Hartford and formerly of Preston, passed away on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. She was a graduate of Connecticut College and Brown University, where she earned her PhD in Russian Studies. She worked as an adjunct professor at the University of Hartford and was also a lifelong Yiddish Professor. She served as a docent at the Jewish Heritage Museum and was a life member of Hadassah. Dora was also a life member of the University Libraries Board of Visitors. Dora was predeceased by her husband Julius.

To say Dora had an interesting life would be an understatement. As a Holocaust Survivor she brought to the world a gentle perspective. She saw the good in all and enjoyed life fully. She was extremely proud of her family and her numerous grandchildren.

Provost Emeritus David Komisar
Provost Emeritus David Komisar, the University’s longest-serving chief academic office and an integral figure in the University’s history dating back to its founding, died on March 19, 2013 at the age of 95.

Charles Condon was quoted as saying that “David Komisar always defined himself as first and foremost a faculty member. He viewed teaching as the noblest profession even as he worked his way up the administrative ladder.” Charles continued on to say that “Komisar was a steadfast advocate for a talented and engaged faculty, and established as a priority the maintenance of high academic standards even as the University was dealing with the challenge of robust and rapid enrollment growth in the 1960s.”

Among his many accomplishments, Komisar played a key role in the creation of the Mortensen Library. Komisar was frustrated with the University’s library operations being split among five academic buildings and he became an aggressive advocate for the construction of a central library. He was among the most enthusiastic celebrants when the Mortensen Library opened its doors in 1971.
A New Engine for Koha

Ben Ide

Last time, I wrote about how our online catalog got a facelift. If you recall, “FaceLift” was the project name for several improvements to Koha, our online public access catalog (OPAC). These improvements were substantial. They included new icons, new colors, an improved browser layout, and changed the way users searched embedded headings. And, of course, there was the creation of our mobile interface — probably the most dramatic improvement of the project. But while all these previous enhancements are wonderful and greatly help users’ ability to search our OPAC, none of them really improved the underlying structure of Koha. And there was room for improvement.

I could tell you all the technical aspects of the upgrade, but I’ll sum it up instead. We were using an underlying search engine called “Zebra” but it was old and obsolete, so we moved to a new one called “Solr.” Solr is a lot more powerful. Think of this as replacing the ailing motor of a car: the body stays the same but now it runs more smoothly and has a lot more power. All of Koha’s data stays the same, of course — we work hard to make sure our catalog is an accurate reflection of the University Libraries’ holdings — but searching is improved. The most notable improvement is speed. Koha using Solr is a lot faster than Koha using Zebra.

How fast is it now? Let me put it this way, the speed at which Koha now returns search results is no longer noticeable. What I mean by “no longer noticeable” is that previous search speeds — the time it took from the moment “go” was clicked to when the search results appeared — were slow enough to be glaringly obvious. One would start to count the seconds while waiting for the results to load. After this latest upgrade, Koha is blazing fast. Or at least it seems that way to me; to everyone else its speed is just invisible. Our OPAC now functions as expected, with no noticeable lag. Just click and voila, there are your results.

Another, perhaps unnoticeable improvement, is the facets. You might already have noticed the facets. They are related search terms that crop up on the left hand side of the results list. Facets are particularly useful for narrowing down an overly broad search: Would you like to just see the things that are available from Allen Library? Maybe you would prefer that everything is in CD format? Are you just interested in jazz recordings, perhaps just the ones from 2004? Facets allow you to quickly zoom in on what you really want. The recent upgrade improves this by ensuring that these facets apply to all of the search results. Previously, facets would only apply to the first page of results, something that users found misleading and confusing.

There are a few other improvements that are hardly noticeable but still important. You can now — just as with Google — put quotes around search words to indicate that you want to search them as a phrase. You can use the minus sign (-) before a word to indicate that you do not want search results that include that term or a plus sign (+) if you want to make sure that a term is included - another Google-esque improvement. And built into the top bar of our OPAC is a choice called “New Titles.” Click that and you’ll get a list of everything we’ve added to our collection in within the last 30 days.

This latest upgrade wasn’t significant in the sense that FaceLift was. In a lot of ways, it’s hardly noticeable. But it is still important. It gives Koha speed and power to match its good looks.
iPads & Recording Equipment Now at Allen Library

Any university student, faculty, or staff member can now check out digital camcorders, digital audio recorders, USB microphones, and iPads at the Allen Library. Devices are loaned for one to three days, depending on the item.

The recording devices have already proved popular among Hartt students who are preparing for recitals, creating audiovisual portfolios, and assembling audition materials. See fun promotional videos on Allen’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/AllenLibrary.

The fourteen iPads have been handy for faculty attending conferences, and the Hartt School uses them for recording comments during student auditions. Having the iPads allows students to become familiar with new technologies before graduating and entering the workforce. The iPads include standard productivity apps such as Dropbox, Notability, Pages, and iAnnotate, and they include performing arts apps such as metronomes, tuners, Anatomy in Motion, Vocal Exercises, Rehearsal, Korg iElectribe, TouchAble, Animoog, and many more.

Laptops remain available for checkout at the Mortensen and Allen Libraries, and Mortensen also has iPads for checkout. Library staff look forward to seeing the university community explore these new technologies in teaching and learning!

This equipment is available thanks to support from the Hartt School and Provost Sharon Vasquez, and with assistance from Hartt Performing Arts Technology Specialist Lief Ellis and A&E Computer Support Engineer Jason Pomposelli.

Faculty, Staff, and Student Softball Game

Left to right: Jess Juchnowski, library ITS student worker; Elise Engelhardt, Circulation Desk student worker; Chris Soper, Circulation Evening staff; Nick Wharton, Head, Reference.

Student Merit Awards – page 3

that we would like to convey to library patrons. Her eagerness to offer assistance had been complimented by patrons on a number of occasions. Jessica has offered numerous times to take on library shifts that other students are not available for. She has put forth the same motivation as a summer employee as well as a regular school year employee. At the beginning of every shift, she asks what tasks need to be accomplished. Jessica can successfully complete multiple tasks in the same shift. Her excellent service is exemplified by recent work entering instrumentation codes into the bibliographic records of chamber music scores. She has given the careful consideration needed to make sure each item conveys proper instrumentation. Jessica has demonstrated self-motivation in completing this project, immediately retrieving items for processing upon arrival to work. While accomplishing this task, she is able to maintain exemplary desk service for patrons. It is a pleasure to have Jessica working for us.
Connecticut Information Literacy Conference — Abbie Weinberg

In a world that allows us to be plugged in to the information super-highway 24/7, librarians and students aren’t the only ones who need to manage and evaluate the plethora of information that is available. In June, a group of librarians met to discuss this very topic.

“Enlightened Hunters and Gatherers: Teaching Information Literacy Skills for Life” is the theme of this year’s Connecticut Information Literacy Conference. Originally created to serve librarians in Connecticut’s Community College system, the conference quickly expanded to include academic librarians from both public and private schools throughout the state. This year’s theme was chosen to highlight the ongoing need for information literacy (IL) — that is, the ability to efficiently retrieve, evaluate and utilize information appropriate to the situation — and explore how academic librarians can teach skills that will last beyond the classroom.

The Call for Proposal (CFP) that went out in February requested ideas for sessions not only on traditional information literacy, but IL and distance learning, technological literacy, and even “transliteracy,” (that is, the ability to use a variety platforms and media to gather information). As committee members, Kristina Edwards, Kyle Lynes and Abbie Weinberg have been watching the theme develop with great interest. This year’s conference is sure to be thought provoking.

The Third Annual Connecticut Information Literacy Conference took place on June 7, 2013 at Capital Community College in Hartford. ✪

24/7 SGA Pilot

For a second semester, the Student Government Association (SGA) funded the Mortensen Library’s extended hours for the week before exams and part of exam week. Maria Arroyo, president, and Victoria Lamagna, academic vice president, recognized the need for students to have additional hours for the Mortensen Library during a very hectic and busy time — final exams.

During the fall extended hours, the students came and they came in droves. This period gave the students extra time to work on group projects, finish papers and prepare for exams. As the library staff walked around the building they noticed not only students working together but also playing. One group took regular breaks to put puzzles together. Another group took regular short power naps, but for 90% of the time, they were all working and studying. At the end of the exam period the Library staff realized that the number of students using the Library made the pilot a success.

In January when the SGA was presented with the data on library usage it became apparent that a second pilot would be necessary for the spring semester. Again, the SGA wanted to fund the additional hours for spring. However, it has to be noted that this project would not have gone as smoothly if it was not for the dedicated University staff. The Facilities department had to continue to clean the Library with students in the building, Public Safety walked through the building on more rounds and the Library staff adjusted their schedules to make sure the project was a success. AraMark Food Service opened the Goodwin Café on the Saturdays during that period. So, when they say “It takes a village”... it truly does. ✪
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Did the Presidents’ College Classes End Too Soon? Wait, There’s More

Beethoven: The Violin Sonatas with Andrew Smith and Elina Christova
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) composed 10 violin sonatas between 1797 and 1813. Not only do they offer a window on his life and a way of thinking about him as a composer, but together they provide a fascinating and refreshing glimpse into the development of Beethoven’s growth as a composer from enfant terrible to mature master. Aged 27 and in full possession of the daring style that made him stand far apart from his contemporaries, Beethoven wrote his first nine sonatas in an astounding burst of creativity that lasted a mere six years. At the climax of this explosion of brilliance comes the incomparable “Kreutzer” Sonata, a monumental work with a mythic status that has inspired plays, art and music through several generations. Nine years later, he approached the genre for a final time with his 10th and last violin sonata. It stands alone from the others, pointing forward to the late quartets and the ninth symphony, and foreshadowing the great autumnal works of Brahms. The course will combine commentary and performance. The Elan Duo (Andrew Smith and Elina Christova) will perform all 10 of the sonatas in succession over four days, allowing us to trace their musical development in its entirety. Our understanding will be enhanced by an extended commentary on these remarkable works by violinist Andrew Smith, who will discuss each quartet and locate it in relation to Beethoven’s biography.

Dates: Tuesday-Friday – May 21-24, 2013
Time: 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Location: Wilde Auditorium
Cost: $65 (Fellows $50)

An Introduction to James Joyce’s Finnegans Wake with Kathleen McGrory
Celebrate spring by finding your own path through Joyce’s final work, Finnegans Wake (no apostrophe, please), a celebration of rebirth, resurrection and the Family of Man. Meet his Adamic-Everyman hero, Humphrey Chimpden Earwicker, HCE (Here Comes Everybody), who embodies every man who’s ever had a great fall. Meet his wife, Anna Livia Plurabelle (ALP, the first letter of the alphabet, the River Liffey), earth-mother of twins, Shem and Shaun, (Mutt and Jeff, Yin and Yang), all opposites, rivals, rivae, banks of the River Liffey. Meet their daughter Isabel-Iris, the rainbow. Discover the pleasures of a book that employs all the resources of allusive English, a punning, musical language created by Joyce out of the history of languages and the geography of the city of Dublin for this telling of his final story (yes, there is a plot!) about family life at the level of myth. Think of this Introduction to the most challenging book ever written in English (yes, it is English, as you’ve never read it before) as an exercise in calisthenics for the brain, a challenge to surmount the Everest of stories in English. But don’t forget the last line of the rollicking Irish song that inspired this story, named for an Irish master builder, Tim Finnegan: “Lots of fun at Finnegan’s Wake!” Re-discover the joy of reading while decoding a unique modern classic.

Dates: Mondays & Thursdays — June 3, 6, 10, 13, 2013
Time: 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Location: Mortensen Library - KF Room
Cost: $70 (Fellows $55)
Congratulations are due to Ed Bernstein, Circulation and Billing Coordinator — five years; Christy Bird, ILL Coordinator — 10 years; Sam Cook, Allen Library Public Services Coordinator — five years; and Cyndi MacCluggage, Serials Specialist — five years — at University Libraries.

Ed Bernstein has achieved five years of service in the Mortensen Library of the University of Hartford. You may have noticed Ed when you walk in the building. He is usually there ready to greet and aid patrons in using the materials at the Mortensen Library. Ed joined the University in September of 2008 working part time in the Circulation Department as the Circulation Reserves Assistant with Marian Smith and Alison Rusczyk. As of August 2012 and the retirement of Marian Smith, Ed became the full time Circulation and Billing Coordinator in the Circulation Area of the Mortensen Library Reference and Public Services Department. Ed’s duties include billing of fines and fees, hiring and training of students, re-shelving books and all tasks associated with Circulating materials from the Mortensen Library. If you walk by the Circulation desk, please congratulate Ed on his five years of service to the University of Hartford.

Our ILL Coordinator, Christy Bird, has been with the University Libraries for ten years. In the time that she has been here, Christy has assisted countless patrons and her dedication has not gone unnoticed. She won the Outstanding Staff Member Award last year. Since we recently switched to ILLiad - a full service interlibrary loan management system - this is the first time users have been able to create and monitor their own accounts and requests. As a result, Christy has been called upon to do a lot of on-the-spot training and “hand holding,” particularly with our long term ILL users. Christy’s diligence and affability make her an ideal match for work in interlibrary loan.

Sam Cook, Allen Library Public Services Librarian, celebrated five years of service. He started as a student employee at Allen during his undergraduate years at The Hartt School (clarinet). After earning his Master of Science in Information Science at the University at Albany, SUNY, he returned for one year as Allen’s Public Services Coordinator before becoming Public Services Librarian. Sam overhauled an online course, Information Literacy in the Performing Arts (HLM 020). He implemented a new online chat service, helped redesign the library website, was a lead tester for the libraries’ new open-source system (Koha), and he designed online search tools. He used his strong coding skills to customize library catalog displays in exciting new ways. This year as chair of the University Libraries’ Marketing Committee, Sam is helping draw all university members into the Allen and Mortensen Libraries.

Cyndi MacCluggage came to the University Libraries with several years of experience on the commercial side of the information business, having worked in the University Bookstore. In her position as Serials Coordinator, Cyndi not only tracks our periodical subscriptions - a task often described in the library world as being akin to herding cats - but also manages our dissertation binding services. When students finish the nerve-racking experience of seeing their doctoral dissertation through from concept to a successful defense, it’s Cyndi who guides them through the final hurdle of getting their cherished work bound and presented to the rest of the academic world. During her tenure here, Cyndi has gotten married and earned a Library Technical Assistant Certificate from Capital Community College.

The Connecticut Library Association (CLA) selected Randi Ashton-Pritting, director, for the 2013 Supporter of Support Staff of the Year Award. This award recognizes library administrative staff who promote the role of library assistants and support staff in the library and information science fields. Nominees must be currently working in the library profession in Connecticut. Criteria for nomination may include any
The annual Music Library Association and Music OCLC Users Group (MOUG) meetings give Allen Library staff an opportunity to learn about developments in copyright, music information technologies, library instruction, and new research.

Jennifer Olson attended an all-day workshop on RDA. Resource Description and Access is a “next generation” cataloging standard that is more user friendly and that accommodates emerging technologies. The organizers made the workshop fun, informative, and useful, without being overwhelming. Virtually every day of the conference had additional talk of RDA, from “how is your library handling implementation” to “why you better start caring.” Jennifer presented some of that content to an enthusiastic Technical Services staff at our own libraries.

Sam Cook attended sessions that provided ideas on improving instruction for library users. Two sessions examined video tutorials, showing how other libraries handle video creation from beginning to end. These included helpful tips, such as combining live action with computer screenshots, incorporating video tutorials into specific classes, and using them to connect with distance learners or other non-traditional students. Another session focused on the assessment of library instruction (before, during, and after sessions). This session included examples of how the presenter assessed concepts common to most music libraries.

Tracey Rudnick attended the Music OCLC Users Group meeting, where she gave music-related input into the forthcoming redesign of the essential library database, WorldCat. Tracey also heard hot topic sessions related to music library services. For example, if composers distribute scores in PDF only, but users require printed formats, does that press libraries into a new publishing role (with attendant costs)? Is that sustainable? Looking backward, many libraries have unique, irreplaceable music scores printed using the older Ozalid process (like blueprints), but the profession is only now learning about the chemistry and care of these rare materials.

Sam and Tracey also had responsibilities at the Conference. Sam, as a member of the Emerging Technologies Committee, served on a panel, “Discovery Interfaces and Music,” where he demonstrated how well (and not so well) our library system Koha handles music. Tracey, as part of her duties as Assistant Editor for Electronic Vendors (for MLA’s quarterly journal, Notes) presented performance data and led several discussions on new services, copyright, and problems resolved.

Finally, we heard fascinating stories from four archives, including the world renowned Beethoven Center (San Jose State U.), Paramount Theatre Music Library, Dave Brubeck Archives (U. of the Pacific), and Grateful Dead Archive (UC Santa Cruz). And yes, we saw Beethoven’s hair at the Beethoven Center.

Staff Happenings ➜ page 10

and all of the following: 1) promotion of support staff development, 2) exemplary involvement in library assistant activities at the local, state, regional, or national levels, or 3) publication of professional writing or presentation of professional programs/workshops on the role of support staff in libraries. The award was presented at the CLA annual meeting on April 30.
The American Revolution: Myths, Realities and Legacy with Edward Gutierrez

This year marks the 230th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris (3 September 1783), which ended the American War of Independence and created our republic. As we approach this year’s Fourth of July, this course cuts through the Revolution’s romantic haze, which persists to this day, and presents the brutal actuality of the conflict: a civil war that pitted Loyalists against Patriots, with colonists caught between. The four lectures of this series will center on these key areas: why the war was fought; how the war was fought; the war’s impact on society; and the war’s impact on history. The Revolution remains essential to understanding our modern political tensions, and is as relevant today as it was 230 years ago.

Dates: Monday — June 24; Wednesday — June 26; Friday — June 28; Monday — July 1, 2013
Time: 10:30 a.m.—12 p.m.
Location: Mortensen Library – KF Room
Cost: $75 (Fellows $60)

Presidents’ College

Save the Date

Symposium 2013

Education for a Lifetime
September 15, 2013
9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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

Courses held on the University of Hartford campus
**FVTA Works for the Libraries**

Over the past several years, the University Libraries has participated in the Farmington Valley Transitional Academy (FVTA) internship program by providing opportunities for students to transition from high school into employed positions. Since 2007, students have been tasked to help with our Presidents’ College mailings, missing items projects, shifting materials, and continuous inventory with great success. The University Libraries would like to thank all of the present and former students for their hard work and dedication to the library.

Our collaboration with the FVTA students began in an ad hoc manner as we were desperate for help in getting out large mailings for the Presidents’ College, which partners with the Libraries to provide educational opportunities to its members from the local communities. The mailings are cyclical and we employ the FVTA students as new brochures are produced each semester.

Seeing potential in the students that helped with mailings, we endeavored to try to get the students more involved with other library related tasks. In the Fall of 2010, we were asked to try to come up with regular shifts for the students to work at the Mortensen Library. At that time, the Libraries were embarking on an extensive inventory project. We were able to train the students to read and understand the LC Call Number system and follow our inventory sheets. The students have been working each Thursday during their school year for about four hours a day. In almost three years, we have completed the inventory for the library fully once and are now about half way through a second sweep of the collection. In that time, we have been able to identify several hundred items missing from our collection, we have found more than one hundred items we thought were missing, and located over 1,000 books that were out of order.

We have also had some individual students who have worked on special projects with a member of the Reference Department. We are currently working with one student for about two hours every Tuesday on locating missing items and a large shifting project to accommodate the conversion of some print collections to electronic. We also have worked with another individual for several weeks helping with some data entry in Microsoft Excel.

Over the past several years, we have witnessed the graduation of many of the students that have helped the libraries become secure in the quality of the collection we own. Students that aide us learn to be organized, have gained knowledge of a University Library, and have gained valuable work experience. We are proud of the graduates and greatly appreciate all of the hard work from our current and past students. The University Libraries is so pleased to have this relationship. We thank all of the FVTA students and staff for deciding to work with us and helping us to be better, more organized Libraries.

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**A New Addition to the Goodwin Café**

After the last event held in the Goodwin Café when Media Technology Services (MTS) had to bring in all sorts of equipment so we could view the Presidential inauguration, the Mortensen Library received a 50 inch TV as a gift, all thanks to Sebby Sorrentino (director, MTS). Now, 50 inch TVs do not fall from the sky as a norm. Sebby had one that was no longer being used in a classroom and he repurposed it for the Café.

In the future we expect that we will have demands for the public viewing on a variety of issues. Currently, we are exploring the possibility of installing a computer complete with VHS/DVD capability. At that point the possibilities for instruction and learning in the Café have been greatly increased.

Thank you Sebby! ✦
A Year in the Making: The SGA Textbook Collection  –  Kristina Edwards

As the 2012-2013 school year comes to an end, it is time for the latest on the Student Government Association’s textbook project. A generous grant provided by the Parents Association has allowed us to purchase 71 textbooks; most are available at Mortensen Library with a few purchased for use at Allen Library. The textbooks were purchased throughout the school year and placed on reserve for student use. All textbooks were chosen by the Student Government Association, who worked hard to ensure that the most requested and highly used textbooks would be purchased.

To borrow a textbook, the students simply present their University ID at the Circulation desk and ask for the textbook for his/her class. The student can then use the textbook, within the library, for two hours. If no one is waiting for the textbook, then the student is allowed one renewal for an additional two hours. Since the program’s implementation, the textbooks have had a total checkout count of over 275 checkouts, with the most popular being textbooks for the sciences and mathematics.

During the school year, SGA did a survey of the student body to find out what textbooks would be the most worthwhile to purchase. This feedback was very helpful and allowed SGA to make sure that some highly suggested textbooks in the social sciences were purchased. The survey also provided us an additional opportunity to make students aware of this project. Students are encouraged to contact the Student Government Association to suggest textbooks that should be added. We are working to create an online form so that students can send their requests electronically to SGA.

This project has gotten off to a great start and we hope that it will continue to grow. We would be happy to receive textbook donations from faculty and students, and encourage faculty to request and donate copies of their textbooks to the University Libraries for this project. ♦

The SGA Textbook Project Initiative  –  Victoria Lamagna

I am Victoria Lamagna, Academic Vice President of the Student Government Association (SGA). Along with my fellow SGA officers, I started the textbook project initiative during fall 2011. The funding from the project came from a $5,000 Parents Association grant awarded in spring 2012. These funds were used to purchase 71 textbooks that were placed in the library on reserve for students to check out for two hours at a time.

At the start of the project, a list of required textbooks for fall and spring semester classes was generated by the bookstore. Using this list, books were prioritized for purchase based on the number of sections offered for each class. For example, classes that had five or more sections offered in a semester were given higher priority. These classes are usually introductory in nature, and most students are required to take them. The Acquisitions librarian, Kristina Edwards took the lead in ordering the books in the most cost-effective way. Director of Libraries, Randi Ashton-Pritting installed shelves in the reserve section of the library to house these books.

The initiative is rapidly becoming a community effort. Professors and students have donated books. I personally have donated a number of my science books which are extremely expensive and often cost prohibitive for many students.

I am pleased to report that these 71 books have been checked out 275 times in the past two months! In order to expand our offerings, more funds are needed to purchase additional books, and replace those that have new editions. Some textbooks cost well over $200, so you can understand why some students simply can’t afford to buy them. We appreciate any donation to this very important project and assure you we will spend your money in a way that will benefit the most students. ♦
President Obama’s Visit to the University

April 8, 2013 was not an ordinary day here on campus — the President of the United States was coming. Tickets were the hardest thing on campus to get. The University cancelled classes. However, the Libraries remained open for the students to gather and watch the event from any number of our areas. And come they did. There were over 80 students in the library just to view the historic event in our classrooms and café. Students who could not get a good seat watched the President on our computers and laptops throughout Mortensen and Allen Libraries.

Thank you to everybody at the University who helped make this happen. It was a day that will be remembered by all!

Our Tax Dollars at Work

Over the years I have written about the importance of Connecticut’s iCONN Project. This project is part of the Connecticut Education Network. It provides all students, faculty and residents with online access to essential library and information resources. The project is administrated by the Connecticut State Library under the auspices of the Commission for Educational Technology and the Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board (CDLAB). iCONN is authorized and funded by the State of Connecticut with support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Starting July 1, 2013 new databases will be added to the academic resources. The important words here are WILL BE ADDED. Because of successful negotiations with new vendors, iCONN will be offering the full suite of the EBSCO databases including: Academic Search Premier, CINAHL with Full Text, ERIC, History Reference, Biography Reference Bank, EBSCOhost (Spanish), PsychINFO, Newspapers Source Plus, as well as many, many more. For a complete listing see http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/Forthcoming.aspx. Every library in the state has come to depend on iCONN. With budget dollars tight, being cut, held back, and in some cases being slashed, having the safety net of the iCONN databases helps libraries manage in these difficult economic times.

Because these statewide licenses are heavily discounted, what they would cost the state is an order of magnitude less than what it would cost in aggregate for all libraries in the state to individually subscribe to the same content. In addition to the financial benefits, iCONN also saves an immeasurable amount of library staff time that would otherwise be spent negotiating license fees, issuing purchase orders, setting up public access to the resources on library websites, troubleshooting access issues as they arise, and training both staff and the public on using the resources.

If iCONN, as it exists today were to disappear, libraries would experience either significantly higher costs, or vastly diminished service, or a combination of both.

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Here at the University of Hartford, a private institution, we also reap the benefits of iCONN. With the addition of the EBSCO databases we will be able to move monies around to offer the possibility of new services to our community.

HATS and HORNS to the iCONN Project staff!
To:

Become a Friend of University Libraries

Whatever your reading interests might be, libraries are always eager to serve as your primary resource for information. Your contribution will enable the University Libraries to enrich subject collections in support of the University's academic programs. Your help is much appreciated — and much needed so that we can continue to support our patrons with the quality services and materials that have become our trademark.

Join us!

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