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The Thomson Corporation Funds a Wireless Classroom for UConn/Stamford

by Nancy Gillies, Director, & Shelley Cudiner, Reference Librarian/Business Liaison, Jeremy Richard Library

A major gift from The Thomson Corporation, headquartered in Stamford, has enabled the University Libraries to install its first wireless electronic classroom. Dedicated on November 7 in the Jeremy Richard Library, the classroom is also the first application of wireless technology on the Stamford campus.

With FY2000 revenues of approximately six billion dollars, Thomson (www.thomson.com) is a leading global provider of integrated information solutions for business and professional customers. The Libraries subscribe to several online databases published by Thomson subsidiaries, among them: Gale Literary Databases and other GALENET products, Infotrac Expanded Academic Index, and Web of Science. Company officials chose to underwrite construction of the classroom to promote the use of information technology in the teaching/learning process.

The Thomson Corporation e-Classroom has transformed a former audiovisual room into a collaborative learning environment accommodating 22 students. With its custom-made modular furnishings, a wireless access point connected to the campus data jacks, laptop computers with wireless network adapters, two mobile security carts, and an instructor’s station with a computer and a switching rack, the classroom has expanded campus instructional options, providing a new level of flexibility and mobility.

Mobile, ergonomically designed tables and chairs also allow the classroom to be used as a lab, accommodating the widest range of learning and teaching styles, including group collaboration. Four whiteboards for group projects and one entire whiteboard wall for the instructor’s use provide generous space for recording ideas and information. The instructor’s workstation includes software that enables the teacher to control access at student workstations in order to maintain the pace of instruction, to display data from the instructor’s workstation at student workstations and vice versa, and to view data from any workstation on one or both of two motorized projection screens.

Two ceiling mounted LCD projectors allow instructors maximum flexibility for viewing video and projecting online databases or web sites, alone or simultaneously. Instructors have a wide range of options for instruction, including access to VHS and DVD players, the Internet, the Libraries’ online catalog and network databases, MS Office, and Dreamweaver and Acrobat Writer software. The following are some examples of how the dual-screen technology can be applied:

• An instructor can demonstrate how to search HOMER with a PowerPoint presentation on one screen and conduct an actual online search on the other.
• Students, working in groups, can devise search strategies for PsycInfo or ABI Inform, and the instructor can project and compare their solutions on adjacent screens.
• While teaching the use of a web page editor such as Dreamweaver, one screen can show how to design the page, and the other can display the raw HTML.
• One screen can display a video about observations in a day care center for a Developmental Psychology class while the other presents the instructor’s lecture notes.

Some aspects of the campus wireless project are yet to be completed. When finished, the project will provide seven access points to accommodate wireless computing in the library and the

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WWW.LIB.UCONN.EDU NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2001

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Avery Point Stamford Torrington Waterbury West Hartford

With a Lot of Help from Our Friends

by Brinley Franklin

Director, University Library Services

The library hosted its second annual Friends of the Library dinner in October, saluting significant individual donors who have made the University of Connecticut Libraries the beneficiary of their generosity. The event gave me an opportunity to reflect on how far the Libraries have come since 1995, when the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center was constructed, in part with the help of $1 million in private donations.

Since then, the Dodd Center has received major gifts from Eldon Bernstein, Helen Crossley, Tomie de Paola, John Kluge, Southern New England Telephone, and Richard Treibeck.

And just recently, the Jeremy Richard Library on Stamford’s UConn campus completed construction of its new wireless classroom, made possible by another major gift—this one from the Thomson Learning Corporation (see the story on this page). We were thus able to take a big step toward our vision of “operating from state-of-the-art libraries.”

In the three years since the rededication of Babbidge Library in October 1998, the library has received ten major gifts to be used for the construction of new and enhanced user facilities. Many of these gifts have helped to ensure that modern teaching and learning technologies are available to UConn instructors and students. Facilities that have been established or significantly enhanced as a result of major gifts include:

• The Class of 1947 Meeting Room offers meeting space and video/computer projection capability for up to 50 people. It is one of the few meeting rooms in Babbidge where food and beverages may be consumed, given its convenient location adjacent to Bookworms Café.

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Class of '52 Anniversary Gift Will Benefit the Libraries

UConn Class of 1952 alumni Phyllis Kronick Medvedow and Charles S. Vigra are leading the drive to raise $125,000 as the 50th anniversary class gift to the University. Of this amount, $100,000 will be directed to the University Libraries for the renovation and enhancement of Babbidge Library’s main teaching facility. The remaining $25,000 (or more) will be used to establish a Class of 1952 Scholarship. As they note in their letter to their classmates, the class of 1952 is now the sixth class in a row to designate the library as the recipient of their 50th anniversary gift.

Babbidge Library’s main classroom, on Level 2, is used exclusively to instruct more than 7,000 students and non-students each year. Almost all First Year Experience classes are introduced to electronic services in this room, as are the Freshmen Writing classes. Upgrading the facility is critical to the library’s rapidly expanding instructional program.

The gift will allow the library to make some or all of the following improvements to the room:

- An instructor’s console in the center of the room so librarians can teach from a well-equipped workstation
- Two large, wall-mounted projection screens on either side of the instructor for easy student viewing
- At least one new projector for displaying computer and video images
- At least 18 more computers, and preferably 36. This would complete the room, which currently has 56 seats and workspaces, but only 18 computers
- Soundproofing to dampen the sound coming from adjacent video theaters
- Improved lighting, including control from the instructor’s workstation, so the instructor can increase or dim the lighting as needed.

For more information about the BLC, see www.blc.com.

Babbidge Hours

Monday - Thursday
8 AM to midnight

Friday
8 AM to 10 PM

Saturday
10 AM to 10 PM

Sunday
10 AM to midnight

Final Exam Period
Every day 8 AM to 2 AM

November/December 2001
W

When I joined the staff of the University Libraries in 1968, the library held a small collection of children’s books housed in the general stacks. A few older and rarer books were kept in the Special Collections Department, which itself had been established just a few years earlier. Much of the material had been acquired in support of teaching programs, especially for the extremely popular English Department course on children’s literature taught by the late Francelia Butler.

Over the next ten years or so, we had frequent discussions with Francelia about expanding the scope of the children’s literature collections. Some steps were taken in terms of adding material to the general collection and acquiring material for Special Collections, but the collections remained primarily a curricular rather than a research collection.

In the early 1980s, Billie Levy, a major collector of children’s books, approached us about the possibility of depositing a portion of her substantial collection in Special Collections. A deposit agreement, which more recently has turned into the donation of her collection, was reached in 1983. That led directly, at Billie’s urging, to the designation of a Northeast Children’s Literature Collection (NCLC) in Special Collections and the development of a research collection in children’s literature.

Billie encouraged us to build upon her contacts within the children’s book community, and on Francelia Butler’s relationships with the authors and illustrators who regularly spoke to her classes, to begin to acquire original materials, especially from artists and writers residing in the Northeast. The effort to collect original materials was greatly strengthened by Roger Crossgrove of the UConn Art Department and former Head of Pratt Institute’s Art Department. In both institutions, he counted many successful children’s book illustrators among his students and had maintained his contacts with them.

The NCLC grew during the 1980s and began to emerge as a significant collection in the field. Leonard Everett Fisher made one of the first major donations of personal papers in 1989. He has continued to donate materials and has participated in our annual children’s book fair on four occasions, including the first year. Leonard remains a strong friend of the NCLC and of Archives & Special Collections.

By the 1990s, conditions were favorable for the creation of an outreach program in the area of children’s literature. Early in 1992, a small group of people met with me, as Director of University Libraries, to initiate plans for a book fair that would bring a group of children’s authors and illustrators to campus. Billie Levy and Roger Crossgrove were the driving force. Other participants included the curator of the NCLC, Ellen Embardo; the UConn Co-op’s Suzy Staubach; and two close friends of Billie’s—Susan Aller and Verne Mahoney—both of whom have an active interest in children’s literature. Verne was also serving then as President of the Friends of the University Libraries. We quickly settled on defined roles, with Billie and Roger serving as the chief contacts with likely participants, Suzy handling all aspects of obtaining and selling books, while Ellen, Susan, Verne, and I managed the logistics of space, publicity, programs, and the like.

The first book fair was held on May 2-3, 1992 at the Bishop Center on the Storrs Campus with 20 participating authors and illustrators. That first year was an exciting experience. The authors and illustrators were talented, articulate, generous with their time, and were received with great pleasure by the adults and children who attended. The Book Fair Committee was energized and ready to continue the fair on an annual basis.

Although we have never formalized our goals in writing, we have always been in general agreement that the book fair should serve several purposes. First, and perhaps foremost, it should give children and adults an opportunity to meet authors and illustrators with a view to encouraging children to become lifetime readers.

Second, it should generate income for the NCLC Endowment—thanks to the willingness of the UConn Co-op to donate a portion of its income from sales. Third, it should familiarize authors and illustrators with the nature and scope of the NCLC, especially in respect to the acquisition of original materials including artwork, correspondence, and manuscripts. Finally, we viewed the book fair as a general outreach opportunity on behalf of the University of Connecticut.

The second book fair in May 1993 brought 19 authors and illustrators to the Bishop Center but, unfortunately, attendance was somewhat smaller than the first year. In reviewing our plans for the future, we decided to shift to a mid-November weekend to take advantage of holiday buying. At the urging of Billie, Susan, and Verne, we also agreed to hold the 1994 book fair on the university’s West Hartford campus, where we might draw on a wider audience. These changes yielded two successful book fairs in 1994 and 1995 and helped establish the book fair as an ongoing event. With the opening of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, we felt it was time to return to the Storrs campus, where authors and illustrators would have a first-hand opportunity to see the center and its state-of-the-art facilities for organizing, housing, and servicing NCLC materials.

Since 1996 the book fair has been held on the second weekend of November in the Bishop Center on the Storrs Campus. It typically features about 15 authors and illustrators over the two-day period. Many participants talk about their work to an appreciative audience, and all schedule times to sign their books and greet parents and children. The book fair also features a storytelling room, where volunteers read from children’s books; as well as an art table with an ample supply of paper and drawing materials, where children can create their own pictures. As the sheets are covered with drawings, they are posted on the walls for all to enjoy.

One of the highlights of the book fair is always the appearance throughout both days of costumed characters representing figures from favorite children’s books. Clifford the Big Red Dog, Curious George, George & Martha, Nate the Great, and Pippi Longstocking are among the many characters who have appeared to delight the younger children, who love to have their picture taken with one of their favorites.

We are fortunate to have most of those who were involved with the original planning of the book fair still with us. Terri Goldich, who has succeeded Ellen Embardo as curator of the NCLC, and Tom Wilsted, Director of the Dodd Center, have joined the effort and given it their enthusiastic support. We have also been fortunate to have continuing financial support from a variety of sources including, in addition to individuals, the Connecticut Library Association, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, the Mohoegan Sun, and in 2001, the Savings Bank of Manchester.

The book fair has continued to achieve its goals. We have built a strong base of enthusiastic support with the thousands of children and adults who attend each year. Many volunteers support the fair and help to publicize it and the work of the NCLC. Income from book sales has helped build the NCLC endowment to approximately $50,000. In the first ten years nearly 100 different authors and illustrators have participated in the book fair, and approximately 30 of those have...
USG Commends Library Administrators

by Suzanne Zuck, Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Information Services, Marketing & Communications

UConn’s Undergraduate Senate Government (USG) Academic Affairs Committee commended two library administrators, Brinley Franklin and Scott Kennedy, in September for working with USG to extend library service hours in response to student requests for increased access to study and learning space on campus.

Early in the fall 2000 term, Justin Carbonella, then Chair of USG’s Academic Affairs Committee, approached the library administration with a petition to increase service hours on weekends and during final exams. He pointed out that there were no reliable options on campus for students seeking quiet study space Friday and Saturday evenings nor workstations for preparing papers and media presentations; and no place for conducting research or for preparing group projects, except at the library. USG asked library staff to partner with the students, and other library staff to enhance the student learning experience.

Speaking in response, Brinley Franklin said, “We’ve very pleased to have been able to increase students’ access to the library’s resources. We’re equally pleased that we were able to respond to USG and work with its members to help improve academic excellence on campus. This effort builds on work being done by Kathy Schwarzenbach, current Chair of USG’s Academic Affairs Committee, noted, “It’s often said that the university administration does not listen to the needs of students; Brinley Franklin and Scott Kennedy prove that wrong. They selflessly gave their time to a cause originated by the student body. I believe this commendation is the perfect way to recognize the hard work of two exemplary USG administrators.”

Council unanimously endorsed the USG’s request for increased hours on both weekends and during final exams.

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The Thomson Corporation Classroom

Continued from page 1

the campus concourse. In addition, there will be two portable access points that move with the storage carts, allowing instant wireless access in the building’s Level II classrooms. Beginning in the spring semester, the library will loan laptops to faculty for use in classrooms and to students for use in study rooms and other areas of the library. Ten additional wireless network cards will circulate for use in students’ personal computers.

Stamford campus microlabs are in heavy use and extremely difficult to schedule for library instruction sessions; the library staff has needed a dedicated teaching facility within the library. The new Thomson Classroom solves this problem magnificently. Faculty will also be encouraged to use the room for classes that can benefit from the instructional technology now so generously available.

UCONN Libraries 4 November/December 2001

Celebrating Children & the Books They Read

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Max came to the book fair too.

Max came to the book fair too.

Stephen Kellert, Professor of Social Ecology in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University, presented the third of this year’s Edwin Way Teale lectures on November 15. Recognized as the world’s foremost authority on human relationships to animals, Kellert spoke on “The Value of Nature and Human Physical and Mental Well Being.”

The Teale Lecture Series on Nature and the Environment, now in its fifth year, brings together leading scientists and scholars from a wide range of disciplines relevant to the environment to promote understanding of the problems and possible solutions, and to increase public awareness of fundamental issues concerning our future.

Teale Lectureship Schedule:

• February 17, “The Plaza or the Pendulum: Two Concepts of the Ecosystem,” by Mark Sagoff, Senior Research Scholar, School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland.

• March 3, “Humanist Environmentalism,” by William Cronon, Frederick Jackson Turner Professor of History, Geography, and Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin.

• April 17, “Forecasting the Future of Biodiversity in a Human-Dominated World,” by Gretchen Daily, Bing Interdisciplinary Scientist, Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University.

All lectures are at 4 PM in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, where the Edwin Way Teale Archives are held.

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Richard Library Promotes Faculty Scholarship

Display & Online Bibliography Feature Faculty Publications

by Shelley Rosenau, Reference Librarian

UConn/Stamford’s faculty publications are now on permanent display in the Faculty Publications Corner of the Jeremy Richman Library. The collection features books, articles, and reviews authored by Stamford faculty and staff on a wide range of topics in the fields of social sciences, sciences, literature, and technology. An online bibliography, accessible from the library home page with links to many of the articles, further promotes the contributions of the faculty.

In the fall of 2000, Oskar Harmon, Associate Professor of Economics, assembled a collection of publications from 45 percent of the campus faculty for inclusion in a library display. Interest in the display has been so great that it has now grown to include almost 65 percent of faculty publications and has become a permanent library collection.

The electronic bibliography takes the display one step further. It provides web exposure to faculty scholarship, offering a chronological list of the publications that faculty have contributed to the display. Hypertext links on the bibliography often direct the user to a website offering free access without a password, or to a UConn subscription-based database where the full text of an article may be found.

Response to the display and bibliography has been overwhelmingly positive. The effort has served to make these materials more accessible than ever before, both on campus and beyond. Faculty members are interested in reading the work of their colleagues, and students are drawn to look up the work of their instructors. One student was overheard to say, “I had no idea that Professor Blatt was such an authority on World War II,” about Joel Blatt’s extensive collection of scholarly articles. Another commented, “Once I saw her biography and read it, I knew that I had to take her class on the Holocaust,” referring to Nechama Tec’s Dry Tears. Another indicator of campus interest is that the number of faculty-authored books borrowed from the library has increased noticeably.

Creation of the bibliography and display has also provided Jeremy Richman librarians with an opportunity to become more familiar with the work of Stamford faculty and is helping to guide collection development decisions. The library has always collected faculty publications in disciplines supported by the university. What remains now is the challenge of keeping the bibliography collection up to date and promoting it so that the library and the campus can continue to celebrate faculty scholarship.

See www.lib.uconn.edu/Stamford/ap-lib/facbiblio/html for a listing of Stamford faculty publications. Contact shelley.rosenau@uconn.edu or 203 251-8522 to make a contribution.

Yes, I want to be a Friend!

I want to make a tax-deductible contribution to support the University of Connecticut Libraries in the amount of:

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- $500-$999
- $1,000-$4,999
- $5,000-$9,999
- $10,000+

Total Amount Enclosed $___________

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________________ State _________ Zip __________
Phone __________________________

Please make checks payable to The UConn Foundation and mail to:

Friends of the University of Connecticut Libraries
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center
U-1205
205 Babidge Road
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269-1205

If you wish to discuss annual giving opportunities, long term commitments, or your interest in a special project or specific area, please contact Linda Perrone at linda.perrone@uconn.edu or (860) 486-0451.
Jane Lawless has retired from the Jeremy Richard Library on UConn’s Storrs campus following eleven years of service to the University Libraries. Jane joined the library staff in 1990 as Head of Circulation and Student Supervisor and was immediately tested by having to implement the library’s first automated circulation system. She has moved us ably through three subsequent vendor changes over the last ten years. Jane has had the challenging responsibility of melding her access services duties with those of a reference librarian. She also was responsible for collection and building maintenance and was the campus representative to UCPEA for many years. She has been active in the College and University Library Section of the Connecticut Library Association and in the affairs of her hometown library, Greenwich’s Cos Cob Library. Jane has served enthusiastically as the library’s liaison to Stamford’s English Department and will be much missed by the English faculty and adjunct instructors.

Jane has been loyal, cooperative, enthusiastic, a hard worker, and a good friend to many on campus, and the loss of her expertise with the library’s Endeavor system leaves a big gap in our technical capabilities. Much too young to give up her love of working in and for libraries, she has accepted the position of director at the Marston Mills Public Library on Cape Cod. We wish her all the best as she explores this new phase of her life. • Nancy Gillies, Director, Jeremy Richard Library

Barbara Lott has retired from the UConn Libraries after 25 years of service. Most recently a liaison/reference librarian and Coordinator of Public Information at the Trecker Library, Barbara’s library career ranged from Special Collections to Research and Information Services on the Storrs Campus, and culminated at the Regional Campus Libraries. A graduate of the Simmons College Graduate School of Library Science, she was a strong advocate for the special needs of patrons with disabilities, carrying this interest from the Babbidge Library to the Trecker Library where, among other notable achievements, she single-handedly facilitated the installation of a sophisticated reader device for the visually impaired.

Barb joined the Wilbur Cross Library staff in April 1976. By 1988, as a University Library Assistant II, she was the Libraries’ Coordinator of Bibliographic Instruction. She concluded her career with the rank of University Librarian II. Before moving to the Regional Campus Libraries, she worked as Babbidge Library’s Coordinator of Desk Services. At Trecker Library, Barbara worked diligently to improve reference operations and public information while at the same time serving as a library liaison to the undergraduate program. Among other assignments, she was Trecker’s bibliographer for social sciences, its liaison to the burgeoning Urban Studies program, and the library’s resident web mistress. She created most of the library’s signage and information handouts.

Outside the library, Barbara is the organist at the South Windham Congregational Church and has performed in this capacity at several other churches in eastern Connecticut. She is deeply involved in the Masonic-related Order of the Amaranth, a social, fraternal, and charitable organization whose philanthropy is raising funds for diabetes research, and is currently their leader, otherwise known as Supreme Royal Matron, at the international level.

Barbara’s analytical abilities, her professional, client-centered approach to her job, her hearty laugh will be missed by co-workers and library patrons alike. Barb will continue to make her home in Amston with her husband, UConn Associate Professor of Economics William Lott. • William Utrecchin, Director, Trecker Library, Greater Hartford Campus

Dipa Roy has retired from Access Services after more than 22 years of service to the University Libraries. Dipa received an undergraduate degree from the University of Calcutta, an MA in English from Jadavpur University, and an MLS degree from Drexel University.

Joining the library staff in September 1979 as Supervisor of Reserve Services at the Babbidge Library, Dipa remained in that position for the duration of her career, her most recent title being Reserve Services Team Leader. She initiated and oversaw the transformation of a manual print operation into a robust Electronic Course Reserve (ECR) service. Babbidge ECR is the library’s most heavily used digital collection, valued highly by students and faculty alike. Dipa’s excellent and extensive relationships with faculty enabled her to gain the necessary support to build this new service. She is recognized nationally by her colleagues as a pioneer and leader in this area of library service. Dipa also served at the libraries’ liaison to the Asian American Studies Institute and was a member of its advisory board.

Beyond her library work, Dipa has contributed generously to the life and culture of the university community. She served on the Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Women and was a core member of SNEHA, a support group for South Asian women. She assisted the Asian American Cultural Center to organize and provide access to its library collections and participated as a discussion leader for the Center’s book club. Dipa played a significant role in planning for the interdisciplinary, international conference “Home and the World: Rahinderanath Tagore at the end of the Millennium” in 1998. In April 2001, she received a Women of Color Recognition Award from the university, acknowledging her significant contributions to the library and university communities.

Dipa is returning with her husband to their native India to reside in the university town of Calcutta, where she will pursue her many and varied intellectual pursuits and contribute to the life of the university community there on a volunteer basis. She will be sorely missed by her library and university colleagues and friends but especially by her colleagues in Access Services. We congratulate her on her splendid career and wish her well. • Nancy Orth, Head, Access Services

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Dipa is returning with her husband to their native India to reside in the university town of Calcutta, where she will pursue her many and varied intellectual pursuits and contribute to the life of the university community there on a volunteer basis. She will be sorely missed by her library and university colleagues and friends but especially by her colleagues in Access Services. We congratulate her on her splendid career and wish her well. • Nancy Orth, Head, Access Services

Anne Frank’s diary was the first, and most famous, children’s book about the Holocaust. Originally published in the Netherlands in 1947, it has sold over twenty-five million copies worldwide, in more than fifty languages. In recent years, as a result of Holocaust studies in school curriculum, hundreds of other outstanding children’s books about the Holocaust have been published. This exhibit looks at selected examples of this growing genre of children’s literature, including picture books, personal narratives, novels, histories, and biographies, some about Anne Frank herself.

Although the Holocaust may be considered a difficult subject for children, most of the books, like Anne Frank’s diary, emphasize the triumph of the human spirit and the moral courage of rescuers who helped others survive at the risk of their own lives. Some also portray the horrors of war and hatred, with unflinching pictures of the ghettos and concentration camps where, of the six million Jews who died, one and a half million were children.

The books in the exhibit were donated by various publishers, and are part of the Dodd Center’s collection of children’s books about the Holocaust. A bibliography of the entire collection accompanies the exhibit. • Drexel University

This is a photographic and text exhibition of people who hid, protected and saved Jews during World War II. The rescuers were individuals of extraordinary courage from all walks of life throughout many different countries. Four decades after the end of the war, Gay Block and Malka Drucker spent three years interviewing and photographing the rescuers. According to an article in the Boston Globe, Drucker was astonished by the diversity of the rescuers: “They came from the wealthy, from the poor, from religious, from atheist, peasant, aristocratic, educated and illiterate.”

Curatorial Assistance, Inc. organized this traveling exhibition. The UConn exhibit is sponsored by the Lillian & Bess Hochberg Memorial Fund, Temple B’Nai Israel, Willimantic, CT. A portion of the show is on display at the William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut. • Dodd Research Center Gallery; Curator, Michele Palmer
The purpose of slide preparation or classroom presentations has been redefined and more fully incorporated into the Art & Design Library. Although it remains a distinct and autonomous operation within the Babbidge Library, it is almost a thing of the past. In 1994, on a wing and a shoestring budget, Dipa Roy, Coordinator of Reserve Services, launched a pilot Electronic Course Reserve Service (ECR) with programming assistance from the library’s Information Technology Services staff and processing assistance from the student work force. During its first semester Babbidge ECR hosted three courses with sixteen digitized files linked to one of these courses. Digital technology, and more importantly, the Internet have ushered in a tidal wave of change in Reserve Services since then.

Today, there are 200 courses on ECR with over 3200 PDF files, plus an extensive historical exam file, and the service has been expanded to incorporate a full range of reserve operations. In 2000/2001 digital course reserve files were opened 185,000 times. Each semester, more faculty place assigned articles, book chapters, class notes, and multimedia presentations online in ECR.

This service is now the Libraries’ most heavily used digital collection and is recognized nationally as one of the best operations of its kind in academic libraries. ECR is so popular with students that the potential to eliminate a large portion of already-decreasing print reserve materials should be possible in the near future. Annual circulation of print reserve items decreased from 95,000 to 28,000 between 1994 and 2001. For students, those night-before-class trudges to the library to access required reading is almost a thing of the past.

While the library was forging ahead with digital course reserve, the university introduced WebCT as its course management software of choice. Technologically savvy faculty began to use WebCT to post their lectures, assignments and grades, and to initiate online discussion groups. The Instructional Resource Center has developed a process for Teaching and Learning that quickly began to provide support for all faculty to receive training in the use of WebCT.

The success of both ECR and WebCT, along with the existence of UITS’ Virtual Classroom, brought unanticipated problems for students, who no longer have to go through the university proxy server to gain access. WebCT will provide internal authorization. Faculty will be pleased to know that the current ECR submission forms for copyrighted materials will remain unchanged and that, on the submission end, business with Reserve Services staff will continue as usual. ECR as we know it became available concurrently with ECR in the Web CT environment beginning in November. The new application will be tested, files will be migrated, and faculty not currently using WebCT will be trained to populate courses in Web CT for linking to ECR materials. Kim Chambers of the Instructional Resource Center has developed a simple procedure for populating courses for ECR and is available to assist faculty, as are Reserve Services staff. It is anticipated that ECR in the WebCT environment will be the only online supported option for course-related library materials by the end of spring semester.

Reserve Services staff will contact faculty individually to encourage their support for these changes and to provide help as the migration moves forward. For more information, please contact us at 860-486-3990 or nancy.orth@uconn.edu.

The migration of ECR to WebCT is a joint project involving staff from Babbidge Access Services and Information Technology Services, University Information Technology Services, and the University Instructional Resources Center.

Electronic Course Reserve Migrating to WebCT

by Nancy Orth, Head, Access Services

Art & Design Library Interim Measures

Since its inception in 1979 the Art & Design Library (ADL) has been managed as a semi-autonomous operation within the Babbidge Library. Although it remains a distinct and separate collection, ADL services are being redefined and more fully incorporated into general library operations.

The ADL reading room is now open whenever Babbidge Library is open, increasing access to the main art collections from 68 to 104 hours per week during academic terms. Access to ADL restricted materials is available every day of the week: from 1 PM-9 PM Sunday through Thursday, and from 1 PM-6 PM Friday and Saturday. Books from the ADL circulating collections are now loaned from the main circulation desk on the Plaza Level, and new ADL books are included in the New Book display on the Plaza. Reference service is available in the reading room from 2 PM-4 PM Monday through Thursday, or by appointment.

As we recruit a new art and design librarian, interim measures are in place to manage daily operations: Ellen Embardo is serving as interim art reference librarian and liaison to Art & Art History, and Steve Grigoreas is serving as student operations: Ellen Embardo is serving as interim art reference librarian and liaison to Art & Art History, and Steve Grigoreas is serving as student liaison to Art & Art History. Ellen Embardo, who has been working on this body of work for two and a half years. Combining elements of caricature, satire, and an obsessive accumulation of objects, these mostly figurative representations in clay and mixed media tackle an old but classic theme—the Seven Deadly Sins. The works possess a funny accessibility that can appeal to both Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Barbara Scavotto-Earley received her BS from Southern Connecticut State University in 1972 and pursued graduate study at Wesleyan University and the University of California. She has shown her work and won awards in many professional and regional exhibitions including the National Association of Women Artists, where she received the Medal of Honor for Sculpture in 1998.

Babbidge Library Plaza, Curator: Roger Crossgrove

Sculpture by Barbara Scavotto-Earley

Through December 31

As Jude Schwedenwein wrote in Art New England in a review of Barbara Scavotto-Earley’s exhibition SINce My Last Confession, “Sculpture that moves beyond pure forms in space to address content can, if conceived and executed carefully, have a confrontational effect on viewers. SINce My Last Confession proves to be a cathartic experience for artist Barbara Scavotto-Earley, who has been working on this body of work for two and a half years. Combining elements of caricature, satire, and an obsessive accumulation of objects, these mostly figurative representations in clay and mixed media tackle an old but classic theme—the Seven Deadly Sins. The works possess a funny accessibility that can appeal to both Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

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Babbidge Library Plaza, Curator: Roger Crossgrove
Rufus & Margo Rose Puppet Collection

Puppeteers Margo and Rufus Rose of Waterford, Connecticut, the leading team of husband and wife puppeteers of their day, were often billed as “America’s Foremost Artists of the Marionette Theater.” Trained in the pioneering Tony Sarg Studios in New York City, where they met in 1928, the Roses established their own puppet company in 1936 and remained active until the mid-1970s.

Their work first drew wide public attention during the 1933 World’s Fair in Chicago. The Rose production of *Scrooge* made television history in 1949 as the first live broadcast of a full-length marionette production. The best-known Rose creation is the character “Howdy Doody,” who appeared on every American child’s television screen during the 1950’s. Margo designed and sculpted the characters for the Howdy Doody show, and Rufus operated “Howdy.” The Roses’ national touring productions included *Aladdin* (1934), *Pinocchio* (1936), *Snow White* (1937), *Treasure Island* (1938), and *Rip Van Winkle* (1939). Puppets from these early shows, many never exhibited before, are on display in this exhibition.

Margo designed and modeled each figure, and was a superb manipulator, whose delicate handling of a marionette was reminiscent of plucking a harp. Rufus built all of their marionettes and developed many innovative approaches to control design and stringing methods. Following Margo’s death, the Rose Puppet Collection came to the University of Connecticut’s Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry, the sponsor of this exhibit.

*Aladdin*, by Margo & Rufus Rose; Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry

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In Blue Mountains
Paintings by Thomas Locker

Thomas Locker, born in New York City in 1937, began his career as a landscape painter; and later became an award-winning illustrator. He has combined his passion for painting and for nature in the creation of more than thirty children’s books. His recent work, *In Blue Mountains: An Artist’s Return to America’s First Wilderness* (Bell Bond Books, 2000), is set in Kaaterskill Cove in the Catskill Mountains of New York. Locker traces his fifty-year association with the area through a series of fourteen paintings and text describing his efforts to capture the light, color, or essence of each scene. Intended as a children’s book, it is a work that anyone interested in nature and the landscape can enjoy. This exhibit features all of the original oil paintings for *In Blue Mountains*. Locker’s years of research into glazing techniques and paint chemistry have enabled him to achieve an extraordinary vision of the natural world. His paintings evoke the mystery and beauty of the Catskills in a way that recalls the work of the Hudson River School artists. One reviewer has said of his earliest poetic landscapes, “They call attention less to nature than to the complex intermingling of perception and thought in the mind of man.”

*In Blue Mountains*, by Thomas Locker

Cover image from *In Blue Mountains*, by Thomas Locker

Aladdin, by Margo & Rufus Rose; Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry

*In Blue Mountains*