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Franklin to Step Down as UConn Libraries Vice Provost

Brinley Franklin, vice provost of the UConn Libraries since 2005, will step down from his position on June 30, 2013, and continue to serve in an advisory and consultative capacity until his retirement from the University on July 1, 2014.

Brinley joined the University Libraries as Associate Director for Administrative Services in 1990, was promoted to Director of Library Services in 1999, Director of University Libraries in 2002, and has served as Vice Provost since 2005. He was the Libraries’ administrative coordinator for the $35 million repair and renovation of Homer Babbidge Library in the 1990s and, during his time with the University, each of the Libraries’ nine physical locations has moved into a new facility or undergone significant renovation.

"Under Brinley’s leadership, the University Libraries has made the transition from a print-based library to a predominantly digital library..."

Under Brinley’s leadership, the University Libraries has made the transition from a print-based library to a predominantly digital library, increasing the University community’s direct access to journal literature from 7,000 print subscriptions to more than 90,000 electronic journals. The Libraries have also become members of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), the Boston Library Consortium (BLC), RAPID, and the HathiTrust. CRL and the HathiTrust afford University faculty, students, and staff access to more than eight million domestic and international holdings. BLC and RAPID enable the UConn community to receive books through interlibrary loan in two to three days while journal articles and book chapters are typically delivered digitally in less than 24 hours.

Brinley has served on numerous

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Babbidge Library’s Digital Lab Advances to Meet Growing Needs

Michael J. Bennett

Back in the fall of 2008, a new digital capture lab, dubbed the “Shark Tank,” was opened at Homer Babbidge Library. Within the small, old server room space was crammed a digital camera copy table, studio strobe lights, and an Atiz BookDrive scanning system that was used to compliment the book scanning being done at Boston Public Library on behalf of the UConn Libraries through what was then known as the Open Content Alliance (OCA). The OCA was a consortium of organizations contributing to the mass digitization and online access of texts that was administered by the Internet Archive, a non-profit organization that provides open access to collections of reformatted materials. Thus both in-house and outsourced book scans were, and still are, used to populate the Libraries’ collection in the Internet Archive’s open access ebook and text archive.

From that time on, requests for digital capture have only increased in both scale and complexity as the Libraries’ Archives & Special Collections, and Map and Geographic Information Center have moved further towards broader, more full-time operational reformatting of their materials. One example of this that the lab has
Reflections

After more than eight years as an Associate Director of the UConn Libraries, six years as Director, and eight years as Vice Provost, I will be stepping down on June 30th this year. As Beatle George Harrison sang decades ago “All Things Must Pass.” Over the course of a 23-year career at the same library and university during a period of monumental change in the information and research university environments, one is left with many reflections.

When I arrived at the University of Connecticut in 1990, the Homer Babbidge Library was wrapped in plastic due to failing cantilever construction. In some ways, the reconstruction and renovation of Babbidge Library that followed was the beginning of a re-birth of the physical facilities at the University that eventually resulted in the State investing more than $2 billion in the University’s physical facilities. Many of the University’s buildings, like Babbidge Library, were transformed into contemporary facilities that better serve UConn’s faculty, students, and staff. During this transformation, new libraries were constructed at the Stamford and Waterbury regional campuses. On the Storrs campus, new Pharmacy and Music and Dramatic Arts Libraries were built as well as the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, which houses the University’s Archives & Special Collections. UConn developed one of the first “learning commons” among academic research libraries, collaborating primarily with the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, and based on its success in Storrs, learning commons were introduced at each of the regional campus libraries.

Academic libraries’ physical facilities still remain important; many academic libraries are now open 24x7 to continuously serve their user populations. Many are also reporting that gate counts are at record highs. Of course today the physical library is overshadowed by the digital or virtual library and technology has rapidly redefined academic research libraries. Libraries have had to reinvent themselves and library staff members have had to redesign library spaces and the collections and services we offer. Agility has become our creed and assessment, service quality, digitization, access, return on investment, diversity, collaboration, discovery, efficiencies, value, cooperation, and e-resources our vocabulary.

The University of Connecticut’s immediate future looks promising. UConn has embarked on a faculty hiring plan that will bring hundreds more distinguished faculty to the University. The State is making historic investments in the biosciences at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington and has approved a technology park adjacent to the Storrs Campus. The Governor has proposed the Next Generation Connecticut program to position UConn for cutting edge 21st century research and bolstering economic development in Connecticut by increasing student enrollment by 30 percent and hiring more than 250 new faculty, including 200 in science, technology, engineering and math.

I believe the UConn Libraries’ future is equally promising. Despite the changes that technology has brought and will continue to bring, the library staff has adapted and will continue to restructure its facilities and how it offers collections and services to support the University in its endeavors. At a recent library advisory committee meeting, more than one faculty member talked about how their subject librarian functions like a member of their school, college, or department. The Libraries’ Director of Undergraduate Education pondered ways undergraduate education librarians could assist students both virtually and in person in innovative ways. The Libraries’ Director of Archives, Special Collections, and Digital Curation talked about the digital repository that can help faculty and students manage their data. Each of these themes portends a bright future for the UConn Libraries. I am especially grateful to have had the opportunity to work with so many dedicated and gifted faculty, students, library and other staff during my years at the University and I know the Libraries’ and the University’s best years lie ahead.

Brinley Steps Down

University committees and has actively encouraged the Libraries’ partnership with other campus units, demonstrated in part by the presence of the Q and W Centers, the Digital Learning Center, Husky Tech, the Roper Center, foreign language tutoring, and Dining Services in Babbidge Library. Active professionally, he represented the University and its Libraries globally and also conducted considerable research in the field of library administration and assessment, publishing more than 30 articles and book chapters and making more than 50 presentations on his research interests domestically and abroad. The University is currently conducting a national search for its next Vice Provost for University Libraries.

Gifts in honor of Brinley should be directed to either the Franklin Family Library Endowment or the Fund for University Libraries at the UConn Foundation. The Libraries thank Brinley for his years of service and wish him the best in his post-UConn endeavors and in his retirement!
Digital Lab Advances  Continued from page 1

completed is the Farm of the Connecticut Agricultural College Storrs, Connecticut (1911) map, http://archive.org/details/farmconnecticutagcollege. This object has a particularly interesting history of rediscovery and significance. During one of the recent campus building renovations, it was found in storage and was brought to the attention of Betsy Pittman, University Archivist. The object represents one of the earliest known Storrs campus maps of what eventually came to be known as the University of Connecticut.

The digital capture of the 8 feet by 4.5 feet object to the precise, measurable specifications of the libraries, archives, and museums community was a substantial photographic challenge to the Library’s digital production staff that was only made more difficult due to the space constraints and equipment limitations of the Shark Tank lab at the time.

This past March, however, staff completed their move into a new, larger space. Dubbed, “HBL Digital,” the new lab’s design is better tailored toward innovative accuracy, efficiency, and flexibility for all reformatting needs. With additional equipment such as a new DT RG3040 reprographic table system, items like manuscripts and large format maps can now be captured more quickly and with less physical stress on the irreplaceable originals than ever.

Beyond simply providing high value, tangible deliverables to the research community, UConn student photographers are able to work closely with the author in order to learn the specialized nature of libraries and archives digital capture. In so doing, they gain valuable experience in implementing cutting edge digital workflows in a technical imaging lab. Such skills, once refined, have translated directly into similar post-graduate photography work at institutions like Hartford’s Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. For example, Allison Hale, who will be graduating from UConn’s MFA photography program in May and who has worked in the Library’s lab for one year will be heading to the Wadsworth starting this summer.

With these digital production building blocks in place, there is still considerable room for improvement. As more and more work requests arrive at the lab for the conversion of large format objects for scholarship and publication from UConn faculty, students, and other UConn-affiliated state-wide partners, additional equipment requirements such as a new medium format camera system will need to be addressed in order to meet the tangible demand and to successfully scale operations accordingly.

Michael J. Bennett, Digital Production Librarian.

Top to bottom:  Brinley welcomed President Susan Herbst on a tour of the library shortly after she arrived on campus; Brinley, former Dodd Research Center Director Tom Wilsted, former U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd, and Library Director Emeritus Norman Stevens before a Dodd Prize ceremony; Artist Alex Gnidziejko presents a still life painting from his exhibit to Brinley as a gift for the Library.

New HBL Digital Lab, Homer Babbidge Library, March 2013. (Photo by Michael J. Bennett)
Once upon a time, children’s literature was derisively regarded by some as “kiddie lit” and consigned to the library science or education curriculum. That was before the 50ish and newly-minted Ph.D. Francelia Butler arrived at UConn in 1965 and was relegated to teach it. And teach it she did, embracing it with unbridled enthusiasm and imagination, bringing guest lecturers to her classes that included falconers, puppeteers, troubadours, and notable figures such as Maurice Sendak, Dr. Benjamin Spock, and the Wicked Witch of the West (the actress Margaret Hamilton) to name a few. Not only did Butler succeed in making her class one of the most popular courses on campus, but she helped to raise the subject to an accepted academic discipline, establishing the journal Children’s Literature, helping to create the children’s literature division of the Modern Language Association and serving as a founding director of the Children’s Literature Association in 1972.

Butler taught at UConn for 27 years, retired in 1992, and passed away in 1998 after leading a full and rich life. She received a B.A. from Oberlin College in 1934 and worked in Cleveland and Washington, D.C. before landing in Paris in the late 1930s where she worked first at the Paris Herald (and met her husband, Jerry Butler), and then at the American Embassy. Pregnant in the spring of 1940 when the Germans invaded France, she and her husband fled to the United States. When he died in 1949, she returned to college, received an M.A. from Georgetown University and then a Ph.D. in English from the University of Virginia, taught briefly at the University of Tennessee, before arriving at UConn.

Her papers, which are in the University Archives at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, document her adventures and accomplishments through more than 40 versions of her autobiography The Melted Refrigerator that was never published in her lifetime. UConn Libraries Director Emeritus Norman D. Stevens and Hollins University Graduate Student in Children’s Literature Jessica Fontaine have edited a version of that autobiography, which was released on Sunday, April 28, 2013, the 100th anniversary of Butler’s birth.

““She was a great storyteller who described her many tribulations, her triumphs, and the precarious and humorous situations in which she somehow often found herself,” Stevens writes in his introductory essay to the book. "Knowing it would be impossible for any biographer to write the story of Francelia’s life with her same convictions and passions, I decided to edit for publication the most complete version of her own story that is titled “The Melted Refrigerator; Comedy and Combat in the Life of a Woman.”

Not long after she called me up to invite me to speak to her “Kiddie Lit” students at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Now that was an experience! I have never been to a class quite like it. It was no wonder it was the largest and most popular one on campus. It was held in a huge hall that was packed with standing room only. I could see some students gingerly sitting along the window sills in the back. I was greeted by The Kiddie Lit Chorus, made up of several highly enthusiastic students, with an amusing skit of their own devising based on the movie of The Wizard of Oz. They were all dressed in costume. My remarks on Baum and Oz must have seemed rather tepid, after all the wild circus act that had preceded them.

“The Melted Refrigerator,” excerpt from an essay by Michael Patrick Hearn, critic and historian of children’s literature and longtime friend of Francelia Butler.
Butler Autobiography
Continued from page 4

general stacks. Later, when a children’s literature collection was formally begun, Butler wanted her students to have unlimited access to its entirety including original manuscripts and illustrations. The Libraries thought indirect, supervised access to the materials would be a better approach, Stevens recalls. Eventually, what is now the Northeast Children’s Literature Collection was incorporated into the Special Collections Department in the Homer Babbidge Library, and in 1995, transferred to the Archives & Special Collections Department’s new quarters in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

“Ironically, it is now a nationally recognized national collection that is used regularly by students in the English Department, the School of Fine Arts, and the Neag School of Education,” Stevens notes. “Individually, and collectively, the children’s literature related courses in those departments do not begin to match the popularity of Francelia’s course.”

Butler’s distinctive approach to teaching seemed emblematic of her personality. Professor of English Sam Pickering, who knew Butler for 20 years, says of her: “Francelia Butler was wondrously bright, wondrously infuriating, and wondrously generous. She was a dear friend and startling teacher. She was a happy appealing character—a sort that sadly has become an endangered species in the academic world.”

Stevens goes on to say: “She was a resourceful and innovative person who always managed to march to the beat of a different drummer. She was a good friend,” Stevens says. “She was, above all, a truly accomplished and polished storyteller.”

Butler recognized the power of language beyond storytelling, and in 1990 launched the International Peace Games Festival to promote the peaceful resolution of conflict by having students design games in which the players worked together to achieve a common goal. Ill, and without any way of assuring the continuance of this program, she transferred it to the students of Brooks House at Harvard University. Under the leadership of Eric Dawson, one of those students, the program flourished and as Peace First has become a major non-profit organization. It is perhaps Butler’s most important and lasting contribution.

Stevens points to the following story in the book relating to the Peace Games that illustrates Butler’s ability to capitalize on opportunities.

While a Fulbright scholar at Jagellonian University in Krakow, Poland in 1967-1968, when Poland was still under Soviet domination, Butler was invited to a dinner to discuss the resurgence of anti-Semitism. “A man clad in magnificent white robes with gold trim entered. I asked who he was and was told he was Cardinal Wojtyla.... I was thrilled at the idea of sitting next to a Cardinal. I recalled that I had a natural stone cross in my purse... [and] told the Cardinal about the cross and its legend [which linked Native Americans to the death of Christ]... When I presented it to him, he kissed it, mumbled a few words in Latin, and put it inside his vestments.” Subsequently she explains that when a friend of hers in Poland who had an audience with the Pope asked him if he remembered the cross and the American lady who had given it to him. ... [He] “replied that he remembered the incident well and still had the cross. “Never one to miss a trick, Francelia used that contact to secure a Papal blessing for each of the three UConn Peace Games.”


Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Library was able to retain the sculpture “Arachnid Ballerina Dancing on Lily Pads,” which has been on display on Level B of the Homer Babbidge Library since artist Gregor Bugaeff’s exhibition in 2011. Bugaeff uses reclaimed materials, including steel and cast iron, to create whimsical sculptures that bring a contemporary edge to a neoclassical style. For more information about the artist and his exhibition, please see: http://s.uconn.edu/gregorbugaeff
New Staff

Christine Aniello Joins Administrative Services Team
Christine Aniello has joined the Libraries Administrative Services Team as an Administrative Services Assistant.

Christine holds a Master of Science in Elementary Education (magna cum laude) and a Bachelor of Science (summa cum laude) in Mathematics from Eastern Connecticut State University. Prior to being named to this position, Christine worked on a part-time basis in the Libraries’ administrative office, at Eastern Connecticut State University, and as a substitute teacher.

Graham Stinnett Named Human Rights Curator
Graham Stinnett has joined the UConn Libraries as the new Curator of Human Rights Collections in University Archives, Special Collections, and Digital Curation.

Stinnett holds a Master’s degree in Archival Studies from the University of Manitoba, where he also earned a Bachelor’s degree in Latin American History. While pursuing his graduate degree, he worked in Archives & Special Collections as an archivist assistant, during which time he headed the processing of the Manitoba Gay and Lesbian Archives collection which will support future LGBTQ history research. While there, he also did research into Aboriginal community organizations in Winnipeg.

After leaving the University of Manitoba, he served an internship in the Archives at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he assisted in preparing proposals to create a documentation center for a human rights non-governmental organization in San Salvador. He also briefly served as the Archivist for the Vancouver Whitecaps Football Club in British Columbia.

Michael Edwards Named Acquisitions and Financial Services Team Leader
Michael Edwards has joined the Libraries’ staff as Acquisitions and Financial Services Team Leader. A native of Berkeley, CA, Edwards holds a bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies with a history of science emphasis from Oregon State University and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from San José State University. Prior to joining the Libraries, he served as Technical Services Librarian at Hampshire College for the past seven years.

Lauren Prause Becomes Director of Development for the Libraries
Lauren Prause has been named to the new position of Director of Development for University Libraries and Parent Giving. In this role, she will build support for the Libraries, including the Dodd Research Center. A South Windsor, CT native and graduate of Marymount University, she most recently worked at Yale University as Assistant Director of Reunion Giving. No stranger to UConn, she previously worked at the Law School as Assistant Director of Development. Prior to her work in higher education development, Lauren led fundraising efforts for the Connecticut Congressional campaigns of Congressman Joe Courtney and former Congressman Sam Gejdenson. She also worked in the Washington, DC office of former U.S. Senator Christopher J. Dodd.

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* Deceased.
Passions for Clay, Gardening, and Writing Converge in New Book, Art Exhibit

As head of the General Books Department at the UConn Co-op, Suzy Staubach has more than a passing acquaintance with all manner of books and the people who both write and read them. And as a longtime potter and gardener, she’s clearly comfortable sitting at the wheel in her studio, overlooking expansive perennial flower gardens developed over decades at her home in Ashford.

Now those three passions have converged in a new illustrated biography she’s written about an internationally known Connecticut potter titled *Guy Wolff: Master Potter in the Garden*, which will be published in July by University Press of New England. The book features photos by UConn alum Joseph Szalay.

An authority on early English and American ceramics, Wolff will showcase his signature garden pots and his slipware, including plates and platters, in an exhibit in Homer Babbidge Library from March 4 through July 10 to coincide with the book’s publication.

On July 14, Staubach will celebrate the book’s publication at the Hickory Stick Bookshop in Washington Depot, Conn., which is near Wolff’s home in Bantam. Though a distance from Storrs, UConn will be well represented: Fran Keilty, the owner of the Hickory Stick, and her husband Michael Keilty, are both UConn alums; he is currently doing work on sustainable agriculture for the University.

Guy Wolff’s traditionally inspired horticultural wares grace gardens and homes throughout the U.S., including those of Martha Stewart, the late Steve Jobs, and the noted garden writer and designer Joe Eck, as well as leading botanical gardens and house museums. His pieces have been frequently featured in magazines such as *Horticulture*, *People* magazine, and *Victoria* magazine.

“If you mention Guy Wolff to a serious gardener, that gardener will tell you he or she either owns a Guy Wolff flowerpot or how much he or she covets one,” Staubach says, adding that Wolff’s pots, ranging from small windowsill-sized to massive outdoor pots, are widely considered the epitome of garden-ware.

Wolff, as Staubach details in her book, is painstaking in his approach to his work.

“The outward sweep from the foot to the rim, classically proportioned, the simple decoration, the pure color of the clay, terra cotta or white, the marks of his hands, make plants look their best,” Staubach writes. “His pots possess an honesty and liveliness that machine-made flowerpots lack. They are beautiful and eminently functional, with generous drainage holes, a porous composition, and a shape that guarantees that a root ball can be slipped out for repotting when the time comes.”

As a young man, Wolff traveled to Jugtown Pottery in North Carolina, and to England and Wales to learn from the old-time potters who were disappearing. He established his own workshop in northwestern Connecticut, where he continues today. Known for his ability to throw large amounts of clay quickly, and for the extraordinary beauty and integrity of his pieces, his pots have been featured in numerous publications, on television, in botanical gardens, and in the collections of serious gardeners.

Staubach’s book about the master potter follows two others she’s written: *Clay* (2005) and *Connecticut, Driving through History* (2001). Copies of her latest book may be pre-ordered through the UConn Co-op website.

In addition to Wolff’s exhibit, the Libraries is hosting “Greenhouse Effects,” an abstract study of greenhouses by veteran photographer Marjorie Gillette Wolfe, a New Haven native who now lives in Cheshire; and “Off the Page: Altered Books, Narrative Sculpture, and Scrolls,” by mixed media artist Maxine Payne of Concord, Mass. These two exhibits will end on June 21.

To learn more, go to: [http://lib.uconn.edu/about/exhibits/](http://lib.uconn.edu/about/exhibits/).
Happenings

Recent donations to Archives & Special Collections include some 200 books by noted illustrator and children’s author Tasha Tudor. Shown here, left, is an illustration from Tudor’s first book, *Pumpkin Moonshine*. The book was among those given by donor Stephanie Clayton to a new collection named in her honor, the Stephanie Clayton Collection of Tasha Tudor. Right, an original illustration from *Red Riding Hood* by James Marshall, a gift from the estate of Maurice Sendak, a part of the Maurice Sendak Collection of James Marshall.

**Libraries Focus on Securing Graduate Student Research Data**

Carolyn Mills

Do you know where to save your research data? How often to back it up? How to protect it from viruses or theft? How to make it available for others to use when your research is completed? If you’re the recipient of federal funds, do you know what rules govern sharing your data? How do you preserve your data so it is still usable in five years?

University of Connecticut graduate students from many disciplines attended three research Data Management Best Practices Workshops in November and December 2012 and January 2013, sponsored by the Libraries’ eScience Team, that answered these and other questions. The workshops were taught by staff from the Libraries, the Office for Sponsored Programs and central and departmental IT Services, many of whom are also members of the eScience team.

The information from the workshops is contained in a new online guide on data management topics at http://classguides.lib.uconn.edu/datamanagement. A recording of the final workshop is available at the Workshops tab of the guide, as are links to the PowerPoint presentations from all of the instructors.

In addition, the library has created a listserv on data management topics for the campus research community. The listserv may be used to pose general questions about organizing, storing, archiving, sharing data and related metadata, as well as legal and ethical concerns at any point in the life cycle of research. Called MANAGINGDATA-L, the listserv is available for subscription by e-mailing: MANAGINGDATA-L@listserv.uconn.edu.

The eScience Team promotes collaboration between University research and support entities on campus to provide quality best practice education and data support services for researchers. The team conducted a research data survey in the summer of 2012, holds workshops and other training opportunities, and is planning several research data pilot projects with the Library’s forthcoming digital repository.

If you have questions about research data management, please contact either David Lowe, the Preservation and Data Management Services Librarian, at david.lowe@uconn.edu, or Carolyn Mills, head of the eScience team, at carolyn.mills@uconn.edu.

Carolyn Mills, eScience Team Leader

Top to bottom: Human Rights Curator Graham Stinnett, Dr. Joel A. Blanco-Rivera, Assistant Professor of Archival Studies at Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information, and Marisol Ramos, Curator of Latin America & Caribbean Collections, visit before Blanco-Rivera’s talk on the emerging role of archives in the field of human rights.

Undergraduate Education Librarian Kathy Labadorf shared information about library resources with two commuter students during a special lunchtime session.

Members of the Libraries’ Diversity Advisory Team; Richard Bleiler, Alice Fairfield, and Beth Rumery, view an exhibit of photographs on the Asian American Cultural Center by Sean Kennedy ‘13, along with Angela Rola, center, the Center’s Director, prior to a talk by Rola at the library.

Panelists at the Libraries’ Spring Forum on April 24 explored current trends in digital scholarship. They included, left to right: Carsten Witt, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Literatures, Cultures, & Languages; Fiona Somerset, Associate Professor of English; Tim Hunter, Professor and Department Head of Digital Media and Design; and keynote speaker Tom Scheinfeldt, Director-at-Large of the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media and Research Assistant Professor of History in the Department of History and Art History at George Mason University.

Mick DiGrazia, security specialist from UITS, speaks to graduate students during a workshop in Babbidge Library.
New Student Technology Fee Enhances Libraries’ Resources and Spaces

If you hear students say it seems like studying in the library is easier and more comfortable than ever before, it’s not their imagination, it’s true.

The Libraries’ IT staff have been busy this academic year upgrading the technology that supports library users’ experience in Homer Babbidge Library and in the other libraries on the Storrs campus and at the regional campuses, and, thus far, have made the following improvements:

• Replaced approximately 100 public computers in the two Info Cafes on Level 1 in Homer Babbidge Library and in Electronic Classroom-2;
• Installed more than 130 new power outlets;
• Installed five new charging stations to power up cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices;
• Purchased two new 27-inch Apple iMac computers for the editing suites in Homer Commons on Level 1, outfitted with the latest video editing software capable of handling both high definition and analog video regardless of the type of video camera used;
• Purchased 11 circulating iPads for Greater Hartford, Stamford, Torrington, Waterbury, and the Pharmacy Libraries;
• Acquired three new circulating digital audio and two video recorders for Stamford;
• Installed free color scanners at each regional campus.

These improvements are made possible by UConn’s new Student Tech Fee, which was approved by UConn’s Board of Trustees last year and implemented this past fall in an effort to provide the level of technology support expected by today’s students.

“With more than one million visits a year, the UConn Libraries are heavily used by undergraduate students, so we are grateful to have these additional resources to help us better serve this important user group,” said Tony Molloy, the Libraries’ IT Director.

Contemporary academic libraries are based on information technology and media. Students require connectivity, electrical outlets to recharge their mobile devices, shared technology-enabled workspaces, scanners, media labs, audio and video listening and viewing areas, electronic course reserves, and electronic classrooms to achieve information literacy.

The technology fee has also supported the development of UConn’s vPC, which provides a reliable computing platform for computer labs, in-class computing, online and distance education and extends computer labs and access seamlessly to branch campuses.

Inaugurated in fall, 2011, the vPC, a collaboration of the University Libraries, School of Business, School of Engineering, and UITS, is a virtual computer lab that allows you to use UConn software and resources from anywhere in the world (including your PC, Mac, or iPad). To learn more, go to: http://vpc.uconn.edu/.

According to Oskar Harmon, associate professor in Economics, the vPC has been extremely helpful in resolving cross platform issues that have arisen in teaching his popular online class “Principles of Microeconomics.”

“I can access video clips and PowerPoint presentations that are in flash format,” Harmon says. “The iPad and iPhone do not permit viewing of videos in flash format. Using the vPC, my students can access a Windows environment from their iPads, and watch these lecture materials in flash format on their iPads with no problem.”

“I think vPC is an incredible resource for students and instructors, and well worth the technology fee required to provide it,” Harmon contends. “I view the technology fee as a small incremental cost that pays for itself 1,000 times over in the services it provides for us.”

Likewise, Kathleen McLaughlin, an adjunct faculty member in Statistics, started using the vPC with students in her Stat 1000 and Stat 1100 classes last fall.

“We use a software program called Minitab, which is now in its 16th version so it has been around for a long time and is well recognized on campuses and out in industry. The biggest issue we have with the software is that it is only available for use on PC’s,” she explained.

With more and more students using Macs it really was turning into a considerable problem, which the vPC helped to solve. “The vPC has been a huge help to us,” she says. “Now, we can have all the students — 1500 per semester — using Minitab on the vPC. Students with PC’s no longer have to purchase the Minitab software and students with Macs can now use the vPC to do their Minitab assignments,” she said. Before the vPC came into existence, students with Macs had to come to the library and use the PC’s there to do their Minitab assignments.

Other improvements are on the way. Expect to see an updated Video Theater 2 complete with power outlets at each seat, equipped with a tilt-top desks making the space easily adaptable for individual study when a class isn’t in session.

In addition, the fee enables the University to provide and enhance wireless connectivity for students in many commonly used spaces on campus.

The Student Tech Fee also provides students a license, at no additional cost, for the most current Microsoft operating system and Office Suite; currently Windows 7 Enterprise, Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010, and Microsoft Office 2008 for Mac.
Exhibits at the Special and Regional Libraries

The Magic Flute at Music & Dramatic Arts Library
Anna Kijas

The Music & Dramatic Arts Library installed an exhibit on the theme of Mozart’s Die Zauberflöte (1791) to complement the “http://www.music.uconn.edu/index.php/opera” UConn Opera Theater’s spring production of Die Zauberflöte. Located in the lobby outside of the Music & Dramatic Arts Library, the exhibit features items from past productions of this opera, as well as works by faculty in the School of Fine Arts. On display are several costume designs by Laura Crow, Professor of Costume Design created for the Connecticut Opera Company productions (1995, 2000) of a “star-ship Mozart.” Second year M.F.A. student Xiachen Zhou’s costume designs for the production are also on display. The three marionettes: Queen of the Night, Papagena, and Sarastro, were designed by Professor Frank Ballard (1929-2010) for a 1986 UConn production. The marionettes are a permanent part of the “http://bimp.uconn.edu/” Ballard Institute and Puppetry Museum collection. The exhibit also features a chronology of past productions, photographs, programs, and facsimile manuscript pages from Die Zauberflöte. The exhibit was installed with the help of Music & Dramatic Arts Library Reference Assistant and D.M.A student, Jan Zimmerman.

The Great Gatsby – Avery Point

To complement the second book in the annual community reading project UConn Reads, Michael Muehe CLAS ’13 and Tara Pealer CLAS ’15 installed an exhibit of library materials related to F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby in the Avery Point Library.

Senegal Smiles – Hartford

Bill Uricchio, Director of Hartford’s Trecker Library, displayed photos he took during a trip to Senegal in June 2012 in an exhibit entitled “Senegal Smiles.” The exhibit featured 55 images of smiling Senegalese people, of all walks of life and ages. The exhibit concludes at the beginning of August.

Princess for a Day – Dodd Research Center

Wedding gowns from UConn’s Historical Collection of Costumes and Textiles are on display in the John P. McDonald Reading Room at the Dodd Research Center in the exhibit, “Princess for a Day: Wedding Gowns from 1860 – 1960.” The exhibit focuses on the many sumptuous wedding gowns of the collection and the anecdotal information that goes along with the evolution of the wedding gown in the wake of Queen Victoria who popularized the wide skirted wedding gown in pristine white. The exhibit continues through the summer.
Exhibits: Now through June 21, 2013

Guy Wolff:
Master Potter in the Garden
Homer Babbidge Library, Plaza Gallery
* Through July 10, 2013

Greenhouse Effects:
Photography by
Marjorie Gillette Wolfe
Stevens Gallery, Babbidge Library

Off the Page:
Altered Books, Narrative Sculpture and Scrolls by Maxine Payne
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center Gallery