Researchers interested in the nuances of federal campaign finance reform law will likely find considerable grist regarding the issue in the papers of former U.S. Rep. Christopher H. Shays, which are now housed in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

A Republican who represented Connecticut’s 4th District from 1987 until 2008, Shays was an original co-sponsor of the landmark Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, also known as “Shays-Meehan” and “McCain-Feingold,” which banned in federal elections soft money from corporations, labor unions and wealthy individuals and barred issue advocacy ads within 60 days of an election unless hard money has paid for them.

The collection consists of almost 100 linear feet of materials documenting Shays’ long career in public service. It is expected that processing will take several years during which time the collection is closed. The opening of the collection for research will be announced at a later date.

“The Dodd Center provides a wonderful resource for researchers around the country, and UConn is a premier institution I was privileged to be part of,” Shays said. “I’m grateful they can continue to be of service.”

A longtime leader among centrist Republicans, Shays worked with the Clinton Administration to establish the successful COPS program, which was widely hailed as a measure that resulted in a reduction of serious crime throughout the United States. In Congress, Shays worked to end racial profiling and sexual discrimination in the workplace and was an ardent supporter of a woman’s right to choose. He helped author the 1993 Gun Control Act and advocated a sensible assault weapons ban reauthorization bill. A former Peace Corps volunteer, Shays helped establish the AmeriCorps national service program and co-founded the Congressional National Service Caucus.

Prior to his election to Congress in 1987, Shays was elected to the Connecticut House in 1974, when he was 29, and served for 12 years. He earned his M.B.A. and M.P.A. from New York University and his undergraduate degree from Principia College.

In January 2009, he joined the Board of Directors of the Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, based in Washington, DC, which works in the areas of campaign finance and elections, political communication and government ethics.
The New Exhibits Program Endowment and Roger Crossgrove Exhibits Series

One of the distinguishing features of the University of Connecticut Libraries at Storrs is its Exhibits Program. The Homer Babbidge Library, the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, and the Music & Dramatic Arts Library, together with the Benton Museum and the Contemporary Art Galleries in the School of Fine Arts, provides UConn students, faculty, staff, and visitors with rotating exhibits of historical, cultural, scientific, artistic, recreational, athletic, educational, social, and community interest.

The Libraries’ Exhibits Program celebrated its 30th anniversary last year and offers the UConn community 15-20 exhibits each year. The Libraries’ Exhibits Program is entirely funded by private giving and relies on volunteers’ efforts to carry out much of its work.

Reflecting on the many ways that library exhibits have enriched the library user experience over the past three decades, I want to ensure that the Libraries’ Exhibits Program continues indefinitely in the future. With that goal in mind, my good friend and colleague Norman Stevens, Emeritus Director of University Libraries and an enthusiastic Exhibits Program supporter, curator, and volunteer, his wife Nora, and I have established an endowment in the University of Connecticut Foundation to support the Exhibits Program. Our goal is to reach an initial endowment of $75,000 this year and, together, we have already pledged about one quarter of that amount.

Norman, Nora, and I also want to recognize Professor of Art Emeritus Roger Crossgrove’s invaluable and continuing contributions to the Libraries’ Exhibits Program. Professor Crossgrove came to the University of Connecticut from Pratt Institute in New York in 1968 and taught at the School of Fine Arts in Storrs for 20 years. Roger has donated his own books and works of art to the Libraries, but at least as importantly, he has persuaded a number of artists, many of them his former students, to exhibit at the University of Connecticut and, in several cases, to donate their works or papers to the University. In recognition of Roger’s contributions, we are establishing the Roger Crossgrove Exhibit Series that will feature works from outside the Libraries’ collections.

Students are using the UConn Libraries in record numbers. Many of them spend hours each week in the Libraries. We know they value an attractive and inviting environment to do their work. When asked, they identify characteristics associated with the library as place as highly desirable.

We know these are difficult times financially, but we also believe that the Libraries’ Exhibits Program enriches the lives of so many members of the UConn community that it should be preserved. We sincerely appreciate the support of our friends and we encourage you to make a gift to the University of Connecticut Foundation, Incorporated in support of the Libraries Exhibits Program through Linda Perrone, Director of External Relations, University of Connecticut Libraries, U-2005, 369 Fairfield Way, Storrs, CT 06269-2005.

Michael J. Bennett

Increasingly library users wish to not only access digital content, they have also come to anticipate that such discoveries take place through well-crafted and aesthetically balanced interfaces.

“Users expect information to be professionally presented and crafted. They will disregard content if the container is not up to professional and expected standards,” noted library technologist John Blyberg at last summer’s ALA Annual Conference Top Tech Trends panel session. In response to such commonly acknowledged user expectations, UConn Libraries Digital Collections Web site (http://digitalcollections.uconn.edu/) has recently undergone a significant update.

Elements of the redesign include quick, tabbed-navigated searches of the Libraries’ digitized texts that are part of its Boston Library Consortium/Open Content Alliance efforts (http://www.lib.uconn.edu/about/publications/newsletters/2007/2007-11.pdf). Additionally, tabs for digitized images that are served up to the web from our local CONTENTdm® server and for digitized finding aids which run through open-source XTF software are also presented to users. Please note that these finding aids are currently in the process of migrating from one local server to another and will once again be live soon.

Beyond its simple, portal-like search functionality, details on such topics as UConn digital capture standards and in-house capture equipment may also be found on the redesigned site. It is our hope that the contemporary structure may grant the number of fine yet dispersed individual digital collections that the Libraries have become a sharper overall visual and functional focus under one virtual roof.

CONTENTdm® is not only the server-side software engine that drives the Digital Collections’ images quick search but is also a robust search interface and digital image repository in and of itself. Newly unveiled in Digital Mosaic (http://images.lib.uconn.edu), there one can find flexible browse and advanced search capabilities across all of the repository’s collections and sub-collections among other end-user functionality.

Additional features include the saving and sharing of My Favorites which are customized image groupings that can be easily created by visitors while they browse and search. My Favorites can be locally-saved as an HTML page and shared in course lectures, on Web sites, or by e-mail. As long as the recipient has an Internet connection, the items contained on an HTML page may be viewed by simply clicking on the thumbnails. Also, work is currently underway on the CONTENTdm® server that will allow for client-side use of a PowerPoint plug-in for easy My Favorites image downloads from Digital Mosaic into the popular presentation software for course instruction, faculty and student research, and public engagement alike.

Regarding DigitalCommons@UConn (http://digitalcommons.uconn.edu/), the institutional repository has undergone a re-think as well. Here primary redesign objectives include a closer alignment to up-to-date UConn web templates and banner imagery for a more standardized, unified look in keeping not only with the new Digital Collections site but also UConn’s web presence in general. We hope the novel front-end gives a fresh new look to this integral library service.

Through collaborative efforts with University of Michigan, both the UConn Library’s Digital Mosaic and DigitalCommons repositories are now recognized data providers to OAIster (http://www.oaister.org/), the 10 million-record-strong, digital resources union catalog hosted at U-M. Weekly, the metadata records of our two OAI-PMH-compliant (http://www.openarchives.org/pmh/) repositories are now harvested and indexed by OAIster which in turn will steer further UConn resource discovery there and also drive higher and more accurate relevance ranking of our digital assets in Google and Yahoo. OAI-PMH is a powerful protocol that allows for such flexible repository extensibility and in turn union catalog or portal creations that benefit enhanced resource discovery for all. In addition, plans are underway on the creation of Wikipedia articles focused on UConn’s digital collections. These will also serve as additional means of description for the libraries’ digital assets and provide another popular gateway for their broader exposure.

To keep track of such resource use, enhanced web analytics have recently been put in place across all of the library’s digital collections in order to monitor general online site traffic and specific collection and item-level object use. Figures now being compiled on a daily basis will form benchmarks for future comparative metrics that will better allow the Digital Collections Coordinating Team to set goals and evaluate and assess resource use with an informed eye towards future collections and interface enhancements.

Michael J. Bennett, Digital Projects Librarian & Institutional Repository Coordinator

Libraries’ New Web Site Unveiled

After a four-month preview and opportunity to comment on a beta version of a redesigned Web site, Library users were greeted with a new Web site in January. The new site features a more simplified format, the result of extensive research conducted over a one-year period. An eight-member team of library staff performed multiple rounds of user testing and focus groups with undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and library staff to better understand how users access library services and information.

Thank you to those of you who participated in the testing for the site. If you wish to share a comment about your experience with the new site, please e-mail: marian.farley@uconn.edu.

Brinley Franklin, Vice Provost
Art Installation Speaks Volumes at Homer Babbidge Library

Suzanne Zack

As the University of Connecticut’s principal repository of printed and electronic information resources, the Homer Babbidge Library is home to literally millions of words — words that have been used to give expression to countless thoughts and ideas.

To celebrate the myriad forms that human language can take, Linda Foster, an artist from Goleta, Calif., is creating a work of art that focuses on words, specifically those spoken by or written in the languages of the University’s rich linguistic community.

Titled, Hamlet: A Cast of Shadows, the project draws its inspiration from dialogue in Act II of William Shakespeare’s play: Polonius: “What do you read, my lord?” Hamlet: “Words, words, words.”

“Words,” translated into multiple languages and written in three-inch letters, will be cut from nearly invisible vinyl and affixed, upside down and reversed, to the bottom interior of four west-facing windows on Level 3 of Babbidge Library. As the afternoon sun moves across those windows, flooding the space with light, “words” will be “written” in legible shadows on the carpet directly below the windows. The seasonal rotation of the earth will cause the shadows to shift in shape and size, marking time and space.

Norman Stevens, director emeritus of libraries has worked closely with the artist on the project. “It is not hard to imagine the beauty of the shadows cast by the world’s languages,” he said. “Individual, distinctive marks of time and cultures, alphabets and characters represent our individuality, while demonstrating an inclusive, common bond: our fundamental need to communicate.”

Stevens notes that some 6,000 languages are in use worldwide, and Hamlet has been translated into more than 69 languages during the last 400 years.

As part of the project, and to celebrate diversity, the University Libraries will conduct an informal census of the languages written or spoken by members of the UConn community.

Participants will also be asked to contribute translations of “words” for possible use in the installation or in the dedication program. The census is available on the University Libraries website: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=08C8G2EidTOL40g_2b4m9Cag_3d_3d.

Foster’s art focuses on artists’ books, or works of art in the form of a book, which she has created for Santa Barbara City College.

Norman Stevens, Director Emeritus of the University Libraries, and artist Linda Foster examine possible typefaces for the words that will be used in the new art installation.

“Words, words, words.”

“Hamlet: A Cast of Shadows, complements other works of art that celebrate books, reading, and information both inside and outside Babbidge Library. These include Dudley Gibson’s Stars Murini Window on the B Level of the library, which represents the evolution of symbols from cave drawings to the alphabet; the massive Stonebook Universe, sculpted by Kubach/Wilmsen from Finnish granite, on the plaza between Babbidge Library and the Dodd Research Center; John Magnani’s carved wooden Pencil Book, housed in a display case at the internal entrance to Babbidge Library on the Plaza Level; Werner Pfleffer’s Endangered Species sculpture, recently installed in Bookworms Café; and Ilun Averbuch’s Dove Tower and Steps to the Bottom of a Pyramid, with its allusion to the use of message-carrying pigeons, located on the quadrangle west of Babbidge Library.

Development and installation of Hamlet: A Cast of Shadows will cost approximately $5,000. The library is seeking donors who wish to help support the project. Interested parties should contact Linda Perrone, Director of External Relations for the University Libraries, at linda.perrone@uconn.edu, or 860-486-0451.

Contributions are tax-deductible and should be made payable to the “Homer Babbidge Library Unrestricted Fund” through the University of Connecticut Foundation.

After spending time on campus to better understand the installation site and the campus community, Foster reflects: “All of these folks have gathered here from all over the world to study here together. They bring with them not only their culture, but the shape of their language. The Roman alphabet is beautiful, but there’s Chinese and Farsi; the shapes of the words are just beautiful. I would hope that we wouldn’t all become one. I would hope that we would celebrate each individual language and hope they all continue to exist.”

Lacyanne Zack, Marketing and Communications Specialist.

Dodd Center Materials Represented in Benton’s Anatomical Exhibit

Several books, including two from the personal library of Walter Landauer, a UConn professor in animal genetics from 1928 to 1964, which are now part of the collections in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, are included in the William Benton Museum of Art exhibit Anatomically Correct: Medical Illustrations, 1543-2008.

The exhibit, part of the University’s “Year of Science 2009” celebration, chronicles the development of medical illustration through a selection of prints, drawings, computer graphics and animation from the 16th century to the present.

The exhibit runs from March 17 through May 10, 2009 in the Evelyn Simon Gilman Gallery.
A Librarian and School of Nursing Professor Help Students — and Patients — by Incorporating Research into a Pathophysiology Course

Valori Banfi and Jennifer Telford

“I’ve been a nurse for a long time. Why do I need to learn how to search the latest medical literature for an Advanced Pathophysiology class?”

This question was posed repeatedly to us by nurses during a class we co-taught last semester which examined the functional changes that accompany disease or injury in a patient.

The idea of incorporating research into a Master’s level pathophysiology class for nurse practitioner students started in August, when Jen Telford, a post-doctoral Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, joined the School of Nursing faculty. A colleague suggested to her that she meet with, Valori Banfi, the nursing school library liaison. During that conversation, we discovered that we shared a love of nursing, history, and research. Jen learned that I had been a medical/clinical librarian at Hartford Hospital, and that I wanted to continue my connection to practitioners. Jen felt that students needed to know the steps involved in identifying clinically based research questions, and how to search the literature to find answers. A newfound collaboration between us resulted in an innovative solution that would enable nursing students to practice in a research and outcome-based clinical environment.

Following graduation, nurse practitioners are immediately expected to stay abreast of developments in research as it pertains to their practice. Since Jen had recently been a student in a Master’s program, she knew that students were expected to interpret and incorporate the most current research findings into their assignments—having never been formally taught the basic library research skills to conduct a literature search. Seeing what she believed to be a deficiency in the traditional methods of teaching graduate-level nursing students, she wanted to bridge the gap that existed between the recognition of a clinical problem and the resolution of the problem—and teach students how to gather relevant information. She believed that Advanced Pathophysiology would be the perfect place for students to develop this skill. Since this class marks the entrance into graduate work for most students, she believed a case-based approach would make the class more realistic.

Over the course of the semester, Jen lectured each week on various pathophysiological conditions. We collaborated to help reinforce the material presented to the students by posing real-life patient scenarios that related to the lecture material. For example, during the week Jen presented a lecture on women’s health, including information about breast cancer, the students were given the following clinical vignette:

Mrs. Smith, a 42-year-old African American female comes into an outpatient clinic for a well woman appointment. She asks you, her provider, whether or not she should have a mammogram.

Given the scenario above, the students were then asked what information they needed to obtain from Mrs. Smith in order to begin to explore whether current research-based evidence in the literature supported or refuted the recommendation of a mammogram. As part of this process, the students needed to isolate which variables wouldn’t be pertinent to this particular patient. This process enabled them to formulate a question and then identify which database would be most appropriate to search for the answer. Through demonstrations, the students learned that Google, although a great search engine, is usually not the appropriate source for finding peer-reviewed refereed evidence-based information. I also demonstrated how to conduct searches in different databases, like PubMed, considered the premier medical database, and Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. Once the students found the appropriate guidelines or evidence, they were then expected to evaluate these sources and were even taught how to create a bibliography using RefWorks, a citation manager.

Based on their research, their clinical expertise, the patient’s history, and their newly acquired understanding of pathophysiology, the students were able to determine the best practice decision for Mrs. Smith and all of their future patients.

Leanne Lachapelle, who has been a nurse for 22 years, and who began work on her Master’s degree last spring, says the class taught her the importance of incorporating current research into her everyday practice.

“The class reminded me of how quickly science progresses and that there is an abundance of research going on in many areas every day. This realization has prompted me to read more research-based articles about many of the procedures and drugs that involve my patients and their disease processes. Staying up to date is a challenge but a challenge that is worthwhile, if as a practitioner, I want to make a difference … and I do!”

Open House (Continued from page 1)

Haven Railroad, southern New England’s predominant railroad line for much of the 20th century, and the first telephone directory in the world, printed in 1878 by the predecessor of the Southern New England Telephone Company.

Finally, Multimedia Curator Kristin Eshelman exhibited several examples of 19th century photographic processes, including daguerreotypes and stereo cards, which when viewed through a stereo viewer, or stereoscope, produce a three-dimensional view. She also played 78 rpm records on a vintage Victrola!

One happy result of the Open House was an agreement between the curators and School of Nursing Professors Jen Telford and Tom Long to collaborate on an upcoming exhibit in the Dodd Research Center Gallery to show archival and research material from the Josephine Dolan Collection of Nursing History. Josephine Dolan was the first Professor of Nursing at the University of Connecticut and an avid collector of information about the history of nursing. Her collection includes photographs and correspondence of Ella Louise Wolcott of South Windsor, CT, who served as a nurse during the U.S. Civil War in the 1860s. The collection also includes letters to and from nursing pioneer Dorothea Dix and information about the history of the American Red Cross. All of these materials, combined with other Dolan archival items held at the School of Nursing, will make for an exciting exhibit that will educate and inform the campus community.

Several of the curators reported that they initiated plans with faculty members to give their students orientations to the collections and services in the Dodd Research Center. The curators plan to make the Open House an annual event and hope that faculty and other members of the campus community will join us for a glass of wine and a relaxed hour or two of conversation.

Laura Katz Smith, Curator, Business, Railroad, and Labor Collections

Laura Katz Smith, Curator, Business, Railroad, and Labor Collections

Valori Banfi, Liaison Librarian to the School of Nursing

Jennifer Telford, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing

Associate Professor-in-Residence at the School of Nursing Thomas Long examines manuscripts.

Curator of Multimedia Collections Kristin Eshelman spins some 78 rpm records on a vintage Victrola.

Valori Banfi, Jennifer Telford
Mumbai Terrorist Attacks Hit Home

Manisha Desai

I heard about the terrorist attacks on my hometown of Mumbai, India’s financial capital and its largest city, as we were driving to Pittsburgh for Thanksgiving with my family in the U.S. Needless to say, the celebration and cheer of Thanksgiving break was dampened by the tragic loss of 173 lives and injury to 308 others. As I write this, I have just returned to Connecticut from Mumbai and my reflections address my concerns with media coverage of the events as well as the responses of politicians and people in the two countries I call home.

Initially, the mainstream media coverage in the U.S. reported the attacks to be home grown and a response to both the unresolved Kashmir situation, a territorial dispute involving Pakistan, India, and China, as well as the grievances and treatment of the large Muslim minority. In contrast, the mainstream media in India immediately dubbed it “India’s 9/11,” thereby sidelining the several previous attacks, such as the ones on the Parliament in New Delhi as well as the bombings in several cities. More importantly, naming it India’s 9/11 allows the media, politicians, and people to mobilize the rhetoric of “the global war on terror,” i.e., preemptive strikes, “putting all options, including attacking terror camps in Pakistan, on the table,” defining security in primarily militarized terms, and accepting a loss of civil liberties and democratic processes. This is familiar to us in the aftermath of 9/11 in the U.S. Sri Lankan political scientist Jayadeva Uyangoda calls this “a state of neo-barbarism.”

Despite the mobilization of this rhetoric, there is enough resistance to it among the people that despite the saber-rattling by both Pakistani and Indian politicians there has been no military response by the Indian state. Strikes, among the ways to locate these materials in the library’s catalog, HOMER, is a keyword search for “Louis Soloway.” You can also add an optional keyword indicating the instrument. Works can also be searched by composer, title, and instrument or ensemble.

Mumbai Terrorist Attacks Hit Home

Manisha Desai, Director, Women’s Studies Program, and Associate Professor, Sociology

Soloway Collection of Woodwind Music Now Available

Joe Scott

The Music & Dramatic Arts Library recently completed cataloging of a rich collection of printed music and teaching methods for woodwind instruments from the personal library of Louis Soloway, who taught saxophone in UConn’s Department of Music during the 1970s and into the 1980s.

Soloway, who also maintained an active teaching studio in his home in West Hartford, CT, played and taught the complete range of woodwind instruments, which include piccolo, flute, oboe, English horn, clarinet, saxophone, and bassoon. He was a close associate of one of the greatest swing era saxophonists, Toots Mondello, and was lead alto saxophonist for the Al Jarvis agency from the 1960s through the 1980s, playing in the orchestras for Hartford Civic Center appearances of Sammy Davis, Jr., the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus, the Moscow Circus, the Lopatzer Musikanten, the Ice Capades and Holiday on Ice.

The cataloged collection numbers nearly 1,600 pieces and contains music literature from a wide range of historical periods, from the late Renaissance to the 20th-century.

Works include unaccompanied solos, solos with piano, and a wide range of chamber music, for like instruments (e.g. saxophone trio and quartets) and mixed instruments (e.g. flute, oboe and bassoon trio). Composers and arrangers range from Bach to Bartok to Irving Berlin, Chopin to Elliott Carter, Lasso to Luzann, Mendelssohn to Michael to Manica, Pachelbel to Prokofiev, and Satie to Shostakovich, to name but a few.

The following selected works illustrate the variety and richness of the collection: J. Bach’s “Credo” (from the Mass in B Minor) for flute choir; Rimsky-Korsakov’s The Flight of the Bumble Bee for solo alto saxophone and clarinet choir; Scott Joplin’s Piano Rag for saxophone quartet; Debussy’s Syrinx for solo flute; I’ve Got a Saddle, I Got a String for saxophone quartet; A Complete Method for the Oboe by Apollon Marie-Rose Barret; jazz solos as played by the likes of Benny Goodman, Charlie Parker, and Sonny Rollins; Method on How to Improve in Solo Music by Yusef Lateef; and Herbie Mann on Jazz Flute.

The works are at an appropriate level of difficulty for the University’s students and professional performers—exactly the sort of gift that most benefits them.

Among the ways to locate these materials in the library’s catalog, HOMER, is a keyword search for “Louis Soloway.” You can also add an optional keyword indicating the instrument. Works can also be searched by composer, title, and instrument or ensemble.

A special thanks goes to George Sanders, a member of the faculty of the Department of Music (Lecturer, trombone), and assistant principal trombonist of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and the Connecticut Opera Orchestra, who provided the personal information about Soloway.

The collection was given to the Music & Dramatic Arts Library in 2002 by Soloway’s widow, the late Molly Soloway of West Hartford, CT.
Atkinson Named Evening & Weekend Supervising Librarian

Joel Atkinson has joined the University Libraries as Evening & Weekend Supervising Librarian.

A graduate of Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana with a B.A. in English, he earned his Master of Library Science degree from Indiana University, Indianapolis, in 2008.

He comes to UConn with a variety of library experiences. As an undergraduate, he served as an assistant in technical services at Grace College, as a graduate student he worked at the Herron Art Library at Indiana University, and as a member of the University Library Reference Team.

Swanson Joins Libraries as UNIX Administrator

Bob Swanson has joined the UConn Libraries as UNIX Systems Administrator.

In his new position, Swanson will oversee the Libraries' current UNIX servers as well as the Libraries' growing number of virtual UNIX servers.

Swanson, who has worked for the Libraries on a part-time basis since 2006, brings with him 25 years of IT experience, having worked for the City of Hartford in a variety of significant IT roles for more than 20 years. For the past four years, he worked in the President's office at the University of Massachusetts as a Senior Systems Specialist. At UMass, he managed multiple physical and virtual UNIX servers and helped to build the university's enterprise business continuity infrastructure.

Roper Center Honored by American Library Association

The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research's iPOLL Databank has been named to the annual “Outstanding Academic Title” list by Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries.

iPOLL, a finding aid to locate national U.S. public opinion polls on particular subjects, contains half a million survey questions and answers asked in the U.S. over the last 70 years by more than 150 survey organizations.

In its review of the Roper Center’s databank that appeared in the October, 2008 issue, Choice says, in part: “The database [iPoll] is updated daily with entries from readily identifiable entities such as Gallup, Harris Interactive, and Pew Research Associates, . . . . Simply put, no other source allows this level, breadth, and depth of access. The Roper Center holdings are a unique treasure and worth the access fee for students, scholars, and practitioners.”

Choice is the leading source for reviews of academic books, electronic media, and Internet resources of interest to those in higher education.

Bill C. Orr: A True Friend

William C. Orr, who came to UConn as a member of the Chemistry Department, served as Associate Provost and later Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1965 until he retired in 1978. At the time of his death on January 16, 2009, Bill, 88, was one of the last surviving members of the UConn's senior administrative staff that worked in Gulley Hall under President Homer Babbidge.

When I joined the University Libraries' administrative staff in the fall of 1968, Bill was my chief contact in the University administration in terms of day-to-day operational matters that needed outside support and assistance. Bill, and his wife Jean, were good friends with John McDonald, then Director of University Libraries, and his wife Jo. That relationship facilitated Bill's professional and personal support for the libraries. At that time, the University had less independence from a wide variety of state rules and regulations in areas such as personnel, purchasing, and budgeting. Positions were allocated by the state on a line-by-line basis, but never with enough funding to support a new position for an entire fiscal year. As the library received new positions, we negotiated with Bill and Ed Hanna, the chief budget officer in Finance and Administration and also a strong supporter of the library, and typically were able to gain permission to fill such positions in a timely fashion.

The student labor budget, as allocated at the beginning of the fiscal year, was typically far from adequate but we were always verbally assured by Bill and Ed that we should proceed to hire the students we needed and that, with a mid-year review, they would find the funds needed to cover an often substantial deficit by the end of the fiscal year. In many years they also found additional funds to help augment the acquisitions budget.

While much of our communication was oral, I can think of no instance in which Bill and Ed didn't keep their word. That is a rare virtue that in more than 30 years as an academic library administrator I found matched only by David Carter, now President of the Connecticut State University System, when he held the same position as Bill at UConn. It was one of the most important on-the-job lessons I ever learned.

The Chemistry Department had a small independent library but wanted the library to provide and operate a larger facility and other science departments wanted similar library facilities. John McDonald and I felt that the highly centralized system at UConn, which was atypical of many large research universities, served well especially given the financial resources that were available. Bill consistently backed our position thus allowing us to concentrate on providing increasingly strong centralized services and to work towards the badly needed development and construction of what was to become the Homer Babbidge Library that was eventually opened in 1968. Although he had retired at the time, Bill was one of the strongest advocates for naming the new library after President Babbidge as was done in 1985, a year after Babbidge's death.

After his retirement, Bill continued to be a strong personal supporter and an active member of the Friends of the University Libraries that had been formed as the first formal effort to increase private support for the libraries. He served as President of the Friends for several years, during which time he helped build a more solid base of regular support. Like his long-time boss, Ken (“Lame Ducks Bite”) Wilson, Bill had a very sense of humor. I remember him best, perhaps, for a sardonic letter he sent to a number of people several years later in which he announced the formation of a “Friends of Friends” group in a mild protest against the proliferation of so many similarly named organizations in and around the University.

Bill was instrumental in encouraging his daughter Katherine Shelley Orr, a children's book author and illustrator, to donate some original materials as well as copies of her books to the Northeast Children's Literature Collection (NCLC) in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. Bill also added to his daughter's collection with the donation of original illustrations, spot art, proof sheets, correspondence, books and manuscript materials that he owned. Plus he, and his second wife Nancy, contributed to the NCLC Endowment that provides support for, and access to, those and other collections.

While I saw Bill only infrequently after he moved from Storrs to Bloomfield, Connecticut, when I did, he always asked about, and was keenly interested in, the state of the University Libraries, what I was doing, and his many friends at the University. He was always a true friend of the library who was truly deserving of the University Service Award, which recognized his “exceptional contributions that strengthen and support the school's values and mission” that he received at the time of his retirement.

The period of Bill Orr's administrative service at UConn roughly coincided with the period that marked the transition of the library from a small operation that had not kept pace with the growth and development of the institution to a major research library that helped UConn improve its academic programs and strengthen its national reputation.

Bill Orr played an important role in that transition.

Norman D. Stevens, Emeritus Director of University Libraries

Footnote:
“A hand lettered cardboard sign that he kept on his desk after he announced he was leaving his administrative position.
Poras Collection of Vietnam War Memorabilia at Dodd Research Center

The political and social turbulence surrounding the Vietnam War is reflected in a new collection of artifacts and ephemera recently cataloged and now available to researchers at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

The Poras Collection of Vietnam War Memorabilia, a gift of Joseph and Linda Poras of Framingham, MA, includes American and Vietnamese propaganda, more than 250 posters from the pro-war and anti-war movements, buttons, pamphlets, correspondence, maps, Zippos, lighters used by American servicemen, and other items, dated from 1965 through 1975. Poras, a dentist with an interest in history, brought it to our attention.

The collection had been exhibited at the William Benton Museum of Art in 2004, and at several other universities in the United States, before being donated to the Alternative Press Collection at the Dodd Center in November 2007. The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut houses one of the largest collections of Vietnam War era underground publications in the country. The finding aid for the collection is available online at http://doddcenter.uconn.edu/findaids/poras/. MSS20070124.html.
University of Connecticut Libraries is published four times each year to provide current information about collections, services, and activities to those interested in the welfare of the Libraries. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please contact Ann Galonska at ann.galonska@uconn.edu or 860-486-6882.

Editor  Suzanne Zack
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University of Connecticut Libraries
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369 Fairfield Way
Unit 2005
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What’s INSIDE

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Page 6  Senior administrator William Orr’s life and support of the University Libraries is remembered.

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INFORMATION  860-486-4637
HOURS  www.lib.uconn.edu/about/hours/ or 860-486-4636
EXHIBITS  www.lib.uconn.edu/about/exhibits/

An Accidental Artist
The Hooked Rugs of Lida Skilton Ives

Familiar Terrain
Joan Jacobson-Zamore, Printmaker

The Year of Darwin
Charles Darwin, 1809-1882: Legacy of a Naturalist

COMING
March 16 – May 15, 2009

Indigenous Voices
Aztec, Mayan and Incan Codices

Also on display...
Portraits in Glass
by Debbie Tarsitano

Connecticut Wilderness
Sculpture & Mixed Media by Randall Nelson

Transitional Spaces
In Post-Soviet Estonia
Photographs by Sara Rhodin

Babbidge Library, Gallery on the Plaza
Curators: Erika McNeil & Laura Katz Smith

Babbidge Library, Stevens Gallery
Curators: Laura Katz Smith & Suzanne Zack

Dodd Research Center Gallery
Curators: Carolyn Mills, Melissa Watterworth & Kentwood Wells

Charles Darwin sailed on the second survey voyage of the HMS Beagle (1831-1836) as a naturalist and gentleman companion for Captain Robert Fitzroy. Ship’s artist Conrad Martens painted the watercolor of native Fuegians hailing the ship.