These are just a few of the over 900 comments received from faculty, graduate and undergraduate students as part of the spring 2008 LibQual+™ survey. Sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries, the survey is designed to gather faculty and student assessment of library service in regard to staff, the physical environment, and success in helping them manage information in an efficient and effective way.

Approximately 3,000 members of the UConn community representing all academic programs across the Storrs and regional campuses participated in the Web-based survey.

Users gave the library staff high marks for being consistently courteous and willing to help, understanding their needs, and in providing individual attention. Users were also pleased with the library’s community space for group learning and group study.

Overall, faculty and students gave the library high satisfaction marks in the survey (7.38 on a 9-point scale). Results showed faculty are our most satisfied user group (7.58), followed by graduate students (7.40).

UConn’s overall satisfaction score ranked sixth highest among 14 other Association of Research Libraries member libraries that participated in this year’s survey.

“Babbidge is a fine library and an invaluable resource. Its staff — in my experience — is courteous, knowledgeable, efficient and extraordinarily helpful.”
– Faculty, CLAS, Humanities

“Every time that I have gone to the library, It has been a productive use of my time.”
– Undergraduate, Business

“The Library has been and remains the most helpful, most friendly, most efficiently operated part of UConn that I have experienced. I am very grateful.”
– Faculty, CLAS, Social Sciences

“Overall, the library is one of the best parts about the whole University; between my undergraduate and graduate degree pursuit I have been on campus for seven years and the library has been consistently one of the best run departments on campus.”
– Graduate student, Business

Assistant Professor of Political Science Matthew Singer was one of three lucky winners of a video iPod for participating in the Libraries’ User survey. Francine DeFranco, center, leader of the Libraries’ User Team that conducted the survey and team member Carole Dyal presented Singer with the device. Winners in the undergraduate and graduate categories were: Sarah Livings, Pharmacy, and Jason Hoagland, recent M.B.A.

Libraries member libraries that participated in this year’s survey.

Michael J. Bennett

Since its 2006 inception, UConn’s Digital Commons’ goal remains its focus today: the creation of an electronic repository of the intellectual output of the University of Connecticut community [that] represents a way for UConn to organize, store and preserve its research in digital form in a single unified location. From that time, content has included academic research articles, dissertations, and other traditional University-affiliated publications. More recently, however, it (http://digitalcommons.uconn.edu/) has begun to encompass intriguing examples of the broader scope often promised in institutional repository circles and collection outlines but just as often overlooked in practice.

For example, Professor Carl David of the Chemistry Department has published an excellent series of illustrated theorems and advanced physical chemistry problem sets in Digital Commons for use as effective educational materials in the classroom.

“Your Information Connection
www.lib.uconn.edu
September/October 2008

UConn Faculty and Students Assess Library Service Quality

Francine DeFranco

Digital Commons’ Variegated Online Garden

Michael J. Bennett

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Of these open access digital assets he has gained notice from fellow academicians working from as far afield as Vienna who have inquired about their use in Europe. Such collegial discoveries and scholarly communication should come as no surprise, though. UConn’s Digital Commons site is completely Web accessible, Open Archives Initiative (OAI) compliant, and is indexed by the massive University of Michigan run OAster portal (http://www.oaister.org) as well as online search engines Google and Yahoo.

At UConn’s regional campus at Avery Point editor Peg Van Patten has been uploading to the repository digital versions of the latest print issues of Wrack Lines, the fine Connecticut Sea Grant periodical. Meanwhile, campus library director Jan Heckman has been busily adding older issues as well in order to eventually convert the complete corpus of Wrack Lines’ retrospective run from its print analog origins. According to Van Patten, “Using Digital Commons has provided Connecticut Sea Grant with a rapid and efficient vehicle to get a much wider distribution of our material to a broad range of users. … Having a fast, easy way to upload Wrack Lines articles helps make that happen.”

A similar pilot project is also slated to commence this fall in Storrs with the Roper Center for Public Opinion and their Public Perspectives journal which will test a new suite of the repository’s online functionality that closely follows the workflow of traditional print journal publishing translated into today’s digital setting.

Continued on page 5
Plan 2013
Brindly Franklin, Vice Provost
University of Connecticut Libraries

This fall, each academic at the University of Connecticut is prioritizing its activities and investments in ways that contribute to the University’s Academic Plan for 2008-2013. The Academic Plan identifies three focused areas of excellence:

• The Environment;
• Health and Human Behavior; and
• Arts, Culture, and Society.

The Academic Plan also calls for advancing UConn’s standing in five interrelated areas:

• Undergraduate Education;
• Graduate and Professional Education;
• Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity;
• Diversity; and
• Public Engagement.

The University of Connecticut Libraries have traditionally done strategic planning from a library perspective – looking at prevailing and emerging trends in the library, information, and higher education environment and developing goals under headings like: Library as Place; Scholar’s Portal; Library Collections; Libraries as Organization; and Transformation of Scholarly Communication Systems.

This year, I have asked our Plan 2013 Project Team to turn this model around, focus on our users first, and align our goals with those in the Academic Plan, or advancing, Undergraduate Education; Graduate and Professional Education; Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity; Diversity; and Public Engagement.

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This summer, the Team met with each vice provost and academic vice president to better understand how their units intend to respond to the new Academic Plan. This Fall, the Team will use library user and other data and work with library staff to develop metrics for making improvements in the information services we provide to undergraduate students, graduate and professional students, faculty and staff, and the public. We will also develop metrics, in the context of our Diversity Plan, for enhancing diversity at the University of Connecticut.

The Team is also working with library staff to review our mission, vision, and values statements to ensure they support the Academic Plan. Finally, the Plan 2013 Project Team will recommend preliminary resource allocation requirements for successful plan implementation.

In the spring, the Library’s Leadership Council, along with two elected staff members, will develop a new organizational structure for 2009-2013 based on the Academic Plan’s five goals. Rather than basing our organization on library-centric functional areas (e.g., collections services, information technology services; research and instruction services), we will base our organizational structure on the users we serve: undergraduate students, graduate and professional students, faculty and staff, the public, and our increasingly diverse student body.

I’d like to personally thank the 3,000 members of the University community who participated in our LibQUAL+® survey last spring. Your responses and comments have given us valuable quantitative and qualitative data that we can use to improve library services for our users and advance the University’s Academic Plan.

Charlotte Bunch, Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership at Rutgers University, will deliver the 15th Raymond & Beverly Sackler Distin-guished Lecture in Human Rights on Monday, October 20 at 4 p.m. in Kronover Auditorium, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. Her talk is titled, “Passionate Politics: The Intersection of Gender, Culture, and Human Rights.”

Also a Board of Governor’s Distinguished Service Professor in Women’s and Gender Studies at Rutgers, Bunch previously was a Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, a founder of Washington D.C. Women’s Liberation and of Quest: A Feminist Quarterly. She is the author of numerous essays and has edited or co-edited nine anthologies including the Center’s reports on the UN Beijing Plus 5 Review and the World Conference Against Racism. Her books include two classics: Passionate Politics: Feminist Theory in Action and Demanding Accountability: The Global Campaign and Vienna Tribunal for Women’s Human Rights.

Bunch’s contributions to conceptualizing and organizing for women’s human rights have been recognized by many and include: her induction into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in October 1996; President Clinton’s selection of Bunch as a recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights in December 1999; her receipt of the “Women Who Make a Difference Award” from the National Council for Research on Women in 2000; and being honored as one of the “21 Leaders for the 21st Century” by Women’s eNews in 2002 and also receiving the “Board of Trustees Awards for Excel-lence in Research” in 2006 at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. She has served on the boards of numerous organizations and is currently a member of the Advisory Committee for the Human Rights Watch Women’s Right Division and on the Boards of the Global Fund for Women and the International Council on Human Rights Policy. She has been a consultant to many United Nations bodies and recently served on the Advisory Commit-tee for the Secretary General’s 2006 Report to the General Assembly on Violence against Women.

Library Offers Food for Thought with Lunchtime Talks by Faculty

Interested in learning more about tapeworms in sharks? Maybe the prospect of traveling back in time appeals to you? Or, if you prefer to stay rooted on Earth, how about some tips on battling “boomeritis?” Homer Babbidge Library will sponsor a new monthly lunchtime series featuring faculty discussing these and other topics in a program entitled “Research Highlights @ Noon.”

Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology James Cara will kick off the series on Thursday, September 18 with the talk, “The Denizens of the Deep Reveal Their Secrets: A Global Look at Shark and Smngray Tapeworms.” Cara recently won a rare $3 million National Science Foundation Planetary Biodiversity Inventory grant to oversee a worldwide network of specialists to study the biodiversity of tapeworms, her research specialty.

Although present in the bowels of all classes of vertebrates, not much is known about them, Cara says. On Thursday, October 16, Professor of Physics Ronald Mallett will talk about “Time Travel: The Possibility and Promise.”

In his latest book, Time Travel A Scientist’s Personal Mission to Make Time Travel Reality, Mallett tells how a childhood trauma – the death of his father when he was 10 years old – inspired his quest to build a time machine so he could return to an earlier time and save his father’s life. Director Spike Lee has recently acquired the film rights to the book, and will co-write the script and direct the film.

The UConn Co-Op will have signed copies of Mallett’s book available for purchase at the event. On Wednesday, November 5, Professor of Kinesiology William Kraemer will speak on the “Physiology of Aging: Fighting the Aging Process with Strength Training.”

An internationally renowned expert in exercise physiology, sports medicine, and strength and conditioning, Kraemer holds an appointment as a full professor in the Department of Physiology and Neurobiology along with an appointment as a Professor of Medicine at the UConn Health Center/School of Medicine.

Recipient of the University’s highest research award, the Provost Research Excellence Medal, he has also been honored by the National Strength and Conditioning Association, the leading authority on strength and conditioning worldwide, which attached his name to its most prestigious research award.

All talks, which are sponsored by the Academic Liaison Librarians, will take place at noon in the Class of ’47 Lecture Room, across from the library’s south entrance, and adjacent to Bookworms Café on the library’s plaza level. A question and answer session will follow the talks. Those who plan to attend are invited to bring a lunch.

For further information, please contact Frances Libbey, Sciences Bibliographer, at 486-2521 or, Frances.Libbey@uconn.edu.
Hans Weiss: A Successful Entrepreneur and Artist

Suzanne Zack

Painting after painting in Hans Weiss’s art gallery depict people dressed in rustic clothing, sowing crops or haying with teams of horses, framed by majestic, snow-capped mountains in his beloved village of Maltherm in Slovakia. Reminiscent of scenes from a fairy tale, the paintings, do, in fact, reflect a paradise Weiss knew and lost more than six decades ago, but one he has never forgotten.

“It was a gorgeous life,” says the artist of his close-knit ethnic German farming village of 600 people where he was born and where he first began to draw and paint.

As he practiced his art and his skill improved, his work was widely exhibited in the region. By the time he was 12, he earned his first commission — a watercolor of the church and school in the neighboring town.

That was more than 50 years ago. Today, Weiss is a widely recognized portrait and landscape artist who operates a gallery in Manchester, CT, and who is the former owner of a successful multi-million dollar manufacturing company.

In 1245, centuries before Weiss was born, his ancestors along with those of his neighbors, had come by invitation from King Béla IV to this remote area of the Carpathian Mountains, then known as Hungary, to settle and develop what was to become Slovakia. They continued to use their mother tongue and observe their customs throughout the ensuing years of political change, living peacefully side by side with the neighboring Slovak people.

The idyllic life Weiss experienced continued until June 1945, when he and his family and thousands of other Germans were deported to a concentration camp as part of the ethnic cleansing that took place at the end of World War II.

“If you spoke in the German language, automatically you were a criminal,” he says of the ongoing bias against ethnic Germans following the war.

“In the camp, beatings were a way of life. A lot of people didn’t survive,” he remembers. Those able to survive were sustained by black coffee, scraps of bread, and soups thickened with horse bones.

After spending five months in these conditions where the young and the elderly died of hunger and others died from hard labor, a family friend bailed the young Weiss out of the camp and he was sent to work on a nearby farm. He spent months there alone, separated from his mother, and not knowing if his father was dead or alive.

“It was tough. It made me stronger,” he simply says of the experience.

After his imprisonment, in June 1946 he was reunited with his parents and was shipped to East Germany, where, because art schools weren’t available to him, he was sent to a trade school and served an apprenticeship with Mercedes Benz in West Germany. During this time, he once again picked up a paint brush, only this time one made of his mother’s hair, and began to replace all his earlier work which had been destroyed in the war.

Weiss’s recollections of his life in Maltherm in the Zipserland region of Slovakia are chronicled in a private museum, which is adjacent to his art gallery and studio on Oakland Street in Manchester. He has also documented his life in three volumes. “I want to keep my experiences in book and art form, because when I’m gone, it would be lost,” he contends.

In 1949, when he was 18, he moved to Manchester, following an aunt who had moved there in the 1920s, along with many other former residents of his village, who applied their talent for weaving in the city’s Cheney Brothers silk mills.

Initially, Weiss, who only spoke German, found a job at the German-owned Hartford Tool and Die Company. Eager to succeed in his new country, at the same time, he bought a dictionary and attended night school to learn English. He later enrolled in the Hartford Art School and the Art Students League in New York and continued to hone his skills.

Selling his business has allowed him the opportunity to pursue his passion. Working in oil, watercolor, pen and ink, and pencil, he has, to date, produced 1500 paintings and 140 portraits, including images of the late U.S. Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, and of U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd, both hung in the “Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

In addition to the Dodd Research Center, Weiss’s work may be found in many private collections and museums. He has participated in many group and one-man shows both in the United States and in Europe. Two years ago, he exhibited his work at the University Libraries.

Today, when he’s not spending time at his home in Vernon with his wife, or with his three children and grandchildren, he can be found working in his studio. He continues to draw and paint, and supports many art students in need through awards he has established at Manchester Community College, which renamed its art gallery in his honor, and at Eastern Connecticut State University, where also he sits on its foundation’s board of directors.

“It was always art,” Weiss says in summing up his life. “Farming just wasn’t my cup of tea,” he says with a twinkle in his eye.

Jacquie Zack, Marketing and Communications Specialist

Weiss donated his portrait of the late U.S. Sen. Thomas J. Dodd to the Dodd Research Center when it was dedicated in 1995. The image also serves as the official logo for the Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights.

Weiss's pencil sketch of U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd.

Moon and Earth in the Apollo 11 space mission. At the time of its sale in 1989, it employed almost 200 people.

While building his company, he indulged his passion for art in the evenings and attended the Hartford Art School and the Art Students League in New York and continued to hone his skills.

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iDesk Becomes Reference Site

Beginning this fall, basic reference services will shift from the Learning Commons on Level 1 to the iDesk on the Plaza Level of Homer Babbidge Library. The move is intended to both provide library users with information at the first point of contact, and to allow subject liaisons to focus their talents and energies upon consultations, instruction, and other services directed at their specific clientele.

“Our goal is to reduce library research assistance on Level 1 to those times of the academic year when demands are heaviest for research assistance and to otherwise serve our users’ library information needs at the iDesk,” said Brinley Franklin, vice provost for University Libraries.

In the past three years, students and faculty have increasingly accessed library resources and services either online or remotely, Franklin said, causing a significant decline in reference transactions.

During the fall semester, the Libraries will monitor traffic and questions at both the iDesk and the new Learning Commons Desk. There will be scheduled research assistance at the Learning Commons Desk only during peak hours: Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Sunday from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

“iDesk staff will track usage patterns, so that we can understand the current needs of our user population and plan a relevant information service for today’s generation of library users, including referrals to subject liaisons for in-depth research assistance,” Franklin said.

This staffing shift will continue throughout this academic year.

Library to Open a Half-Hour Earlier on Weekdays

Starting September 2nd, Homer Babbidge Library will open at 7:30 a.m. instead of 8 a.m., Monday through Friday, during the academic year. The opening time on Saturday and Sunday during the academic year will continue to be 10 a.m.

The change comes in response to requests from students who frequently need documents printed for early classes, and from faculty who need access to library materials, such as videos, for classes that meet at 8 a.m.

“Our user surveys have indicated that students want access to printers and photocopyers before 8 a.m.,” said Brinley Franklin, Vice Provost for University Libraries. “Likewise, faculty members may need to pick up library materials for their early classes. Despite a budget cut, we are re-deploying some of our remaining staff resources to serve these important needs our users have related to us.”

Closing hours will remain the same: 2 a.m., Monday through Thursday and Sunday; 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The 24-hour room in Babbidge Library was also enlarged over the summer. For a complete schedule, please visit: www.lib.uconn.edu/campuses/storrs/hours.html.

Copying and Printing at Homer Babbidge Library Now Entirely Self-Service; Scanning Free

Photocopying and printing at Homer Babbidge Library is now all self service. Members of the campus community will need to use a Husky One Card or Department Card to copy or print a document instead of paying in cash.

Library users unaffiliated with the University may purchase a new Library Service card for $5 from the self-service One Card machine on Level 1 of the Library. This card, which comes with $2 of credit on it at the time of purchase, entitles users to the same $.10/page cost for copying and printing that members of the campus community currently enjoy.

The IT Services Desk has relocated to the new Learning Commons Desk, formerly the Reference Desk on Level 1. Users will find new, faster copiers, which will provide free black and white scanning of documents to any e-mail address. Free color scanning will also be available. In addition, the Library now also has the ability to print large format documents of 36” x 48” and 36” x 56”.

Faxing service will be available in the Student Union.

For additional info, please visit: http://learningcommons.uconn.edu/resources/printmore.htm

Noted Children’s Literature Author, Historian, and Critic to Speak at Dodd Research Center October 22

Teri Goldich

Leonard S. Marcus, one of the most respected and versatile writers, historians, and critics in children’s literature, will deliver a talk titled “Wonder in the Wake of War: the Fantasy Tradition in American Children’s Literature,” on Wednesday, October 22, 2008.

The talk, which will be based, in part, on the fantasy literature-related aspects of his latest book, Minders of Make-Believe, will take place from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Konover Auditorium, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. Free and open to the public, the talk is sponsored by the Northeast Children’s Literature Collection, the Dodd Research Center, and UConn’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

A reception and book signing will follow.

Published in 2008, Minders of Make-Believe: Idealists, Entrepreneurs, and the Shaping of American Children’s Literature is an animated first-time history of the visionaries – publishers, authors, librarians, booksellers, educators, and others – whose passion for books has transformed American childhood and America culture. Booklist in its starred review calls Marcus’s book a “tour de force.” Robert Coles has described it has a “brilliant rendering of a nation’s values over the generations.”

In his talk, Marcus also intends to reference his interviews with 13 modern masters of fantasy from another of his recent books, The Wand in the Word. He explains: “So many of the fantasy writers I interviewed felt they were writing about the war they themselves had experienced, or else that they wrote fantasy because of the impact of remembered wars on their view of life. And it seems me that it was the experience of modern warfare, which so discredited the myth of science- and industry-driven progress, which helped to consolidate the readership for writers from Tolkien and Lewis to Madeleine L’Engle.”

Marcus is the American children’s book world’s preeminent historian and among its most popular speakers. His many award-winning books include Dear Genius: The Letters of Ursula Nordstrom, Margaret Wise Brown: Awakened by the Moon; and A Caldecott Celebrations. His recent children’s books include Oscar: The Big Adventure of a Little Sock Monkey, co-authored and illustrated by his wife Amy Schwartz, and Pass It Down: Five Picture-Book Families Make Their Mark. Leonard is Parenting Magazine’s regular book critic and is a frequent contributor to the New York Times Book Review and The Horn Book. He holds degrees in history from Yale and poetry from the University of Iowa Graduate Writers’ Workshop. In 2007, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the Bank Street College of Education. For more information about his work, visit his Web site at: www.leonardmarcus.com

For more information, contact Teri Goldich at 486-3646, or teri.goldich@uconn.edu.

School of Pharmacy Library Celebrates 70th Anniversary

The School of Pharmacy will celebrate the Pharmacy Library’s 70th anniversary with a talk by Mignon Adams, former director of the J.W. England Library at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, on the history of pharmacy libraries in America on October 23, 2008 at 4 p.m. Adams’ talk will take place in Room 129 in the Pharmacy - Biology Building and will be followed by a reception and tours of the Pharmacy Library. The public is invited to attend.
Diversity in the Context of UConn's Academic Plan: An Enrollment Management Perspective

Dolan Evanovich

The University’s new Academic Plan calls for providing undergraduates with an intellectually challenging and diverse learning environment in an inclusive community that recognizes and celebrates individual differences. As the leader of the Enrollment Planning, Management and Institutional Research Division, I believe our role in achieving that goal is to recruit, enroll and nurture a diverse cadre of high achieving students who thrive in and contribute to this dynamic environment while ensuring that our staff reflects the diversity we seek in our student body.

A key step toward achieving this goal is to foster success by using a variety of pathways to attract and admit well-prepared students. We do so, in part, by partnering with the K-12 system to ensure that students have adequate pre-college preparation, as well as by working closely with the state’s community colleges and our regional campuses to facilitate the transfer of well-prepared students. We also seek students from across the nation and internationally and provide significant financial aid to ensure access and student success.

Our record of success is the result of strategic outreach efforts that began long before a prospective student's senior year in high school. The University reaches far back as the sixth grade to work with minority students as they progress toward and through high school. The Office of Admissions and the Center for Academic Programs reach out to underrepresented students through programs such as Gear-Up, that encourages 6th graders to complete high school and attend college; Educational Talent Search that prepares middle and high school students from low income backgrounds; and the Upward Bound/ConnCAP Program, which promotes high school completion and college placement to ninth graders.

Recruitment programs also play an integral role. The College Recruitment Program, which includes College Recruitment Day for seniors in the fall and College Life Day for juniors in the spring, invites minority and first-generation students and counselors from urban settings in Connecticut to the Storrs campus. Over 1,500 prospective students participated in these programs last year. Also, more than 350 students took part in Electronic Application Days that assist students in urban and rural settings with applying for admission online. Multicultural Call-Out Nights informed 1,800 admitted students about our cultural centers and support services. Our Admissions counselor visited with nearly 400 students on UConn Admit Celebration Days at Urban and Regional High Schools. Also, Urban Admitted Student Yield Receptions in Bridgeport and Hartford last year hosted more than 750 people. The Mass Mutual Huskies Scholars Program continues to increase access for Hartford’s first generation and low-income students by annually funding 15 students via the Student Support Services Program at Storrs and will continue to do so through 2010.

The University is committed to reducing financial barriers that limit access and to ensuring fair and equitable awarding of financial aid to all eligible students. From fall 2001 to 2007, need-based aid has grown from $90.9 million to $170.5 million. While state need-based aid increased from $8.5 to $9.7 million and federal aid from $8.2 to $10 million, University-supported need-based aid grew from $17.5 million to $32.6 million.

Over the past decade, freshman enrollment at Storrs has increased 45 percent, and freshman minority enrollment increased by 96 percent. During this period, average SAT scores have climbed from 1112 to 1200, and the percentage of freshmen from the top 10 percent of their high school class has nearly doubled.

Thanks to many programs across campus and hard-working students, academic achievement and success of minority students have improved. The Multicultural Centers provide a full range of support services that improve student satisfaction and retention. Our Multicultural Institutes provide the academic component that enriches the experience for all students.

These types of programs and numerous other initiatives have contributed to Storrs minority freshman retention increasing from 87 percent to 91 percent over the past five years, and four and six-year graduation rates climbing from 38 percent to 51 percent, and 65 percent to 68 percent, respectively. That six-year minority graduation rate ranks UConn in the top 20 among public universities in the country.

We will continue to build upon our success in promoting a diverse environment across the University. Our goal is to nurture that welcoming environment in which well-prepared students thrive and succeed. In doing so, we are well on our way to providing the state of Connecticut with an even more talented and diverse workforce in the future.

Dolan Evanovich, Vice President for Enrollment Planning, Management, and Institutional Research

Digital Commons

(Continued from page 1)

Professor of Chemistry Carl David, who has published a series of physical chemistry problem sets in Digital Commons, has been contacted by academics as far afield as Vienna about their use in Europe.

In Storrs, University Archivist Betsy Pittman has been uploading much of the now “born digital” materials that can be best described as University publications. These include such items as course catalogs, fact books, commencement programs, and faculty handbooks, all important aspects of the UConn institutional memory and as such rightful and welcome players in Digital Commons.

In an exciting joint venture with journalism students and the library, plans are underway to incorporate video content into the repository for the first time. Library liaison to the Journalism Department, Steve Bari, has uploaded test file sets and has consulted with the author on possible video file formats and size requirements in laying the groundwork for direct efforts with students and faculty come this term. Anticipated content includes news shorts and features which will be available as compressed .mov movie files that users may search for and download through Digital Commons and view in their Web browser of choice with QuickTime.

In addition, this fall a “new community,” Conferences and Meetings, will be added to the repository. Once in place, proceedings and the like from such UConn-affiliated events will be effectively searched for, discovered, and cited through time with Digital Commons’ stable URLs. Currently the author is working with Helen Marx from the NEAG School of Education who is co-chair of the Northeastern Educational Research Association’s annual conference. Marx will be adding such items as PowerPoint presentations and papers from conference contributors to Digital Commons.

At press time there were 4,581 total objects in the repository. Of these, 60,203 full objects have been downloaded over the course of January through July this year for an average of approximately 8,500 downloads per month. With its continued branching into new and exciting areas of electronic content Digital Commons’ online garden is poised to grow alongside the continued intellectual output of the UConn community. The institutional repository is open to all faculty, staff, and graduate students of the University of Connecticut. For additional information visit http://digitalcommons.uconn.edu/ and keep an eye open for the site’s fresh, new look coming this fall.

Michael J. Bennett, Digital Projects Librarian & Institutional Repository Coordinator
McGlamery Retires; Established Libraries’ Map and Geographic Information Center

McGlamery joined the Libraries as its Map Librarian from the Library of Congress’ Geography and Map Division and established MAGIC as a digital collection in 1989. Working with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Geological Survey and other state and national agencies, MAGIC was built into an exemplary collection of geospatial data.

Recipient of the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Special Achievement Award in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the American Library Association’s Map and Geography Roundtable Honors Award, the UConn Chancellor’s Information Technology Award and a Special Achievement Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to the University of Connecticut, he, more recently, served as director of Library Information Technology Services.

Contributions on his behalf may be made to the Homer Babbidge Library 25th Anniversary Technology Fund, which will be used toward IT certification for library staff. Checks should be made payable to the UConn Foundation, indicating that specific fund, and sent to Linda Perrone, Homer Babbidge Library, 369 Fairfield Way, U-2005, Storrs, CT 06269. Contributions may also be made online by going to the library’s Web site: http://www.lib.uconn.edu/about/giving/, and clicking on “Give Now.”

Wilsted Retires; First Head of Dodd Research Center & Special Collections

Thomas Wilsted, right, director of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center and head of Archives & Special Collections at the University of Connecticut, is congratulated on his 12-year University career and retirement by President Mike Hogan during a reception on June 30.

As director of the Dodd Center, Wilsted built partnerships across the campus, the state, the nation and internationally. On campus, he established partnerships with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Museum of Natural History, the Benton Museum, the Center for Justic Studies and the Human Rights Institute. In Connecticut, he worked with Mystic Seaport, the Connecticut Historical Society, and the Connecticut State Library to create Connecticut History Online, a Web site that contains approximately 14,000 searchable images of photographs, drawings, and prints that highlight the history of Connecticut. In South Africa, he collaborated with the University of Fort Hare and with the African National Congress (ANC) to preserve historical ANC records and oral histories.

A firm believer in public outreach, he fostered an extensive program of lectures and events that focus attention on the Dodd Center’s collections, such as the Edwin Way Teale Collection and the Northeast Children’s Literature Collections, and that encourage the deposit of important archives in the Dodd Center.

Among areas cited as needing improvement were: a more modern equipment; easy-to-use access tools to enhance electronic resources; quiet space for individual activities; easy-to-use access tools to find information.

Other improvements created in the past four years include: designation of the 4th floor as a quiet study space; a redesigned level 1 and new Learning Commons to provide technology and personal support for undergraduate academic and research needs; the expansion of Bookworms Cafe and permitting food in the building; and expanded hours, including round-the-clock access during exams. Participation in the survey was voluntary and respondents were offered an option to enter their e-mail addresses into a drawing for one of three video iPods.

The Libraries would like to thank all respondents for their participation in this survey effort. Your input has helped us assess library service quality and informs our strategic planning and process improvement decisions.

The survey’s complete results may be reviewed at: http://www.lib.uconn.edu/about/administration/surveys/Information about the LibQual™ survey can be found at: http://www.libqual.org/

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17th Annual Connecticut Children’s Book Fair

Set for November 8 & 9, 2008

The 17th Annual Connecticut Children’s Book Fair will take place November 8 and 9, 2008 in Rome Commons Ballroom at UConn’s campus in Storrs, Connecticut.

A project of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center and the UConn Co-op, this annual, free event brings together prominent authors and illustrators and the public to foster the enjoyment of children’s literature and literacy. Presentations and book signings, storytelling, crafts, holiday shopping, and storybook characters will be available throughout the two-day event.

Among the authors scheduled to appear this year are: longtime favorite Caldecott and Newbery Honor Award recipient Tomie dePaola; designer, illustrator and winner of the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Javaka Steptoe; and winner of the 2007 Connecticut Book Award for children’s literature Lane Smith. For more information on authors and illustrators who will be there and a complete schedule, please visit the Web site (http://bookfair.uconn.edu).

The Book Fair will again offer a free Saturday and Sunday morning breakfast with Clifford the Big Red Dog from 8:45 a.m. - 10 a.m. Participation is available on a first-come, first-served basis and space is limited, so call 1-800-U-READ-IT to attend. Reservations will be taken starting on Oct. 1, 2008.
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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
Contributors  Michael J. Bennett, Françoise DeFranco, Dolan Evanovich, Brinley Franklin, and Terri Goldich.

COMING
October 20 – December 19, 2008

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Photographs by Carolanne Markowitz

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Art & Craft by the UConn Libraries’ Staff

The public is cordially invited to attend an opening reception on September 14, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Stevens Gallery, Homer Babbidge Library.