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Junior faculty members must have discovered that a handsome profit can be made by publishing in them. More have initiated an online, round-the-clock academic research service, BLC ASK 24/7, for the students, faculty, and staff of BLC member institutions. Participating BLC libraries include those at Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis, Northeastern, Tufts, UMass/Amherst, UMass/Boston, UConn, UNH and Williams College.

This live reference service is available on the web 24 hours a day, seven days a week, offering an alternative to the web search engines used by researchers and students working at any hour of the day or night. The service is currently in pilot project mode; give it a try at http://www.library.brandeis.edu/247/24-7.html

We welcome and appreciate any feedback you can provide regarding your experience with these new services. Direct comments to the BLC Borrower’s Card at nancynorth@uconn.edu or 860-486-3990. Comments can be sent to David McChesney at david.mcchesney@uconn.edu or 860-486-1251. Founded in 1970, the Boston Library Consortium is a cooperative association of nineteen academic and research libraries. Its purpose is to enhance interlibrary loan and document delivery. Read more about the BLC at http://www.blc.org/.

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### New Library Services for UConn Community Via Membership In Boston Library Consortium

#### BLC Borrower’s Card

The University of Connecticut Libraries joined the Boston Library Consortium (BLC) in August, securing important benefits for the UConn academic community, one of which is borrowing privileges at consortium libraries. With the exception of the Health Center and Law School communities, UConn faculty, staff, visiting scholars, graduate and undergraduate students, and retirees are eligible for a BLC Borrower’s Card.

BLC libraries offering borrowing privileges include: Boston College, Boston Public, Boston University, Brandeis, Brown, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, MIT, Northeastern, State Library of Massachusetts, Tufts, UMass (all campuses), UNH, Wellesley, and Williams. Member libraries establish their own circulation privileges and policies. All allow in-house use of materials without the BLC card except Northeastern and Brown; you will need a BLC card to use those collections on site.

To get your BLC Borrower’s Card, apply at any UConn Libraries’ circulation desk. You must have an active, unblocked patron record in our patron file to qualify. If you have questions about the BLC card, please contact Barbara Vizoyan at barbara.vizoyan@uconn.edu or 860-486-1155.

BLC ASK 24/7 Service

Reference librarians working in ten of the BLC libraries, and supported by other reference librarians from around the world, have initiated an online, round-the-clock academic research reference service, BLC ASK 24/7, for the students, faculty, and staff of BLC member institutions. Participating BLC libraries include those at Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis, Northeastern, Tufts, UMass/Amherst, UMass/Boston, UConn, UNH and Williams College.

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- **Page 3** Tracking Archival Resources in the Tropics
- **Page 5** Terese Ridgeway: A Profile of the Artist
- **Page 6** The Digital Collections Program • “Hot Issues” Forum at UConn/Greater Hartford
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- **Page 8** Exhibits Through December 27, 2002

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**2002 Raab Associates Prize**

Susan Salzman Raab, UConn ’80, manages her own children’s book marketing agency, Raab Associates, in Chappaqua, NY. In 1999, she established an annual prize for the best illustration of a children’s story designed by a UConn art student. The prize, constituted by Terri Goldich, curator of the Northeastern Children’s Literature Collection at the Dodd Center, in cooperation with the School of Fine Arts, seeks to bring attention to the field of children’s book illustration and to encourage students who have an interest in the arts and publishing. Professor Cora Lynn Debbler assigns an entry for the contest as part of her curriculum. This year’s assignment was to create an illustration to accompany a poem, “Blueberry Summer,” by author/illustrator Jane Yolen. Because the students produced an unusually diverse and fine body of entries, a decision was made to split the prize. First place was awarded to senior Danielle Lorde, who received a check for $300. Esther Cushing, a ninth semester student, and Touny Rosa, a senior, shared second place; each received a check for $100. (Left to right) Esther Cushing, professor Cora Lynn Debbler, Touny Rosa, author Jane Yolen, and Danielle Lorde.

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**Calling All Faculty**

Beasley Franklin
Director of University Libraries

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Unlocking Labor History at Stamford: Yale & Towne Company Records, 1868-2001

Shelley Rowan, Reference Librarian, Jeremy Richard Library

No factory or mill ever played a greater role in Stamford history than the Yale & Towne Company. This lock and hardware manufacturer put Stamford on the business map in the 1800s, and part of its company and labor history is now preserved in the Jeremy Richard Library at UConn/Stamford.

Over the last 20 years, half of the million square foot manufacturing complex has been demolished, and many former employees have died, leaving their memories unrecorded. A call for stories and documents by The Historic Neighborhood News, Spring 2000, published by the Stamford Historic Neighborhood Preservation Program, generated the basis of the collection, which traces the company's almost 100-year relationship with the community.

Linus Yale and Henry Towne established what was originally called the Yale Lock Company in 1869. While Yale was the ingenious inventor of the five-pin or cylinder lock, Towne was the entrepreneur who developed efficient ways to mass-produce the new, compact lock. The South End “Factory District” of Stamford proved to be the ideal location for the plant, near the mouth of the Mill River and the New York/New Haven Railroad line. Eager immigrant workers, who had settled in the area since the late 1840s, quickly filled the pool of skilled and unskilled labor. Stamford experienced tremendous growth during the company’s first twenty years, and Y&T went on to become the leading manufacturer of locks in the world.

When the company first opened, it employed 34 people. By 1916, 6,500 of Stamford's 35,000 residents were working at Y&T. Stamford prided itself on the oral histories and organized the many photo-clippings and local and national press clippings, oral history, and research conducted by David Kelly for his 1988 thesis at Yale University, entitled “The Strike at Yale & Towne and the Stanford General Strike.” A recorded interview recalls the memories of the first general counsel of the machinist union, who describes a dramatic pistol shot that cut off the plant’s power and symbolized the walkout.

The strike received national attention when Life Magazine published “Stamford Union Strikes—The General Strike” in its January 14, 1946 edition. “For almost three hours” Life reported, “almost all businesses and industrial activities in the city came to a halt.” Ten thousand unionists and lookouts were reported to have marched on Town Hall to sympathy with Y&T strikers and to protest the state’s interference with picketers.

Recently donated to the collection is an original map of the immense 25-acre complex with its employee housing, company store, apprentice school, foundry, and numerous other plant sites spread over 35 separate buildings. Oral histories evoke a wide range of memories, including that of an employee describing the plant’s 24-hour-day defense work operation during the 1940s and narration by a former tool and dye apprentice in the 1920s. Photographs and clippings track the company’s good times and bad, from men’s and women’s company sports teams, who competitively played one another, to lung diseases lurking within the iron foundry that inspired a story in the 1934 New York Herald, “Grim Death Haunts Workers in Y&T Foundry.”

Richard Library is the permanent repository for the Y&T archive, thanks to the donation by the Yale & Towne Project and their grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council. Project leaders included UConn/Stamford history professor Mary Cygan, Historic Neighborhood Preservation Program director Renee Kahn, and Heather Alexander. Professor Cygan directed her undergraduate students in collection processing, and secondary sources for the project. The students conducted most of the interviews of former employees included in the oral histories and organized the many photographs donated by the Stamford Historical Society.

Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company records, 1868-2001, can be searched through HOMER and are available by appointment by contacting the Jeremy Richard Library. A complete description of the collection is available at http://library.stamfordhistory.org/Yale_Towne.html.

Continued on page 4

UConn/ANC Archives Project Update

Work on the second phase of the project to organize and catalog the ANC archives in South Africa began in August 2002 with the employment of eight new staff members in South Africa. Tom Whited, director of the Dodd Center, joined ANC archivist Narissa Ramdhani and project coordinator Razia Saleh for a weeklong training session for the new staff members in Johannesburg. Verne Harris, director of the South African Historical Archives, led the training seminar.

In phase two, the project plans to organize the remaining materials still housed at ANC's headquarters in Johannesburg. Staff have reviewed all collections that are housed there and have

As was typical of labor disputes of the time, employees were seeking a closed shop, increased wages, and better working conditions. Management resisted, and labor disputes resulted in what became the first citywide strike in Connecticut history.

The Y&T collection documents the strike that began with a walkout by more than 5000 workers on November 14, 1916. It includes local and national press clippings, oral history, and research conducted by David Kelly for his 1988 thesis at Yale University, entitled “The Strike at Yale & Towne and the Stanford General Strike.” A recorded interview recalls the memories of the first general counsel of the machinist union, who describes a dramatic pistol shot that cut off the plant’s power and symbolized the walkout.

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January 2002, I embarked on a six-month educational leave to Puerto Rico to begin work on an inventory of the rich archival resources in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean islands. Tremendous speaking Caribbean resources in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean are built, and well organized collections recorded in the materials held in these institutions become known to scholars only through word of mouth. Since no comprehensive guide to research resources in any of the three Spanish-speaking islands, individually or combined, has yet been undertaken, I have started to compile such a guide beginning with my stay in Puerto Rico.

Preliminary focus for the guide is on resources in Puerto Rico with future plans to expand the project to the Dominican Republic and Cuba. In Puerto Rico, I traveled throughout the island to archives, libraries, foundations, institutes, and private collections, investigating and recording information on the content, organization, and access to research resources.

Repositories included in the project are: the Colección Puertorriqueña at the main library, University of Puerto Rico (UPR) in Río Piedras; the Seminario de Estudios Históricos, Archivo Central, Centro de Investigaciones Históricas, and the Biblioteca de Puerto Rico: Biblioteca del Caribe y de Estudios Latinoamericanos, all also at the UPR Río Piedras campus.

Other national and private repositories in progress include the Archivo General, Archivo de Imágenes (Archivo General), Archivo y Biblioteca del Ateneo Puertorriqueño, Biblioteca del Centro de Estudios Avanzados del Puerto Rico and el Caribe, Archivo Histórico Diocesano, Archivo Histórico del Banco Popular, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, Fundación Luis Muñoz Marín, Seminario Evgángico de Puerto Rico, Archivo Municipales (Caguas, Mayaguez, Ponce, San Germán, Vega Baja), Archivo Central de Estudios Electorales (Hato Rey), Archivos Parroquiales in various towns on the island, Universidad Sagrado Corazón—Archivo/Colección Especial, Universidad Interamericana (San Germán), Gran Logia Soberana de Puerto Rico (Santurce), and Archivo del Departamento del Estado (Town Hall, San Juan), among others. The inventory for each separate archive is in a different stage of development.

My experience in each archive varied as well. Facilities differed widely as did the organizational state of the materials. Some repositories are housed in new, modern, climate controlled (and often very cold) facilities with staffing levels that allow for virtually complete collections processing and published finding aids. Others are located in warm, humid back rooms with no or minimal organization. For example, the Fundación Luis Muñoz Marín, named for the first elected governor of Puerto Rico (1949-1964), is located on the former Muñoz Marin estate in Trujillo Alto. It has lovely grounds, a new building, and well organized collections recorded in approximately 100 finding aids, yet necessitated many hours for reverse and data input for my inventory guide.

At the Seminario Evgángico de Puerto Rico, lack of staff resources has left the small but very important cache of archival resources unprocessed. The director generously allowed me to review the collections located in a caged area on the third floor box by box. In essence, I performed preliminary processing for the collections found some treasures, such as a group of diaries of José Espada Marrero, a pastor in Puerto Rico with a seven-year mission in La Romana, Dominican Republic. The collection includes a diary for each year from 1913-1970 that highlights religious and Protestant church history of the island, as well as detailed views of social life in the towns of his pastorships. This was certainly one of my most rewarding archival discoveries.

While working in the General Archives in San Juan, I not only ran into a former professor at UConn, Edgardo Meléndez, but for several days sat next to the guestbilingual Dr. Fernando Pico, a well-known and respected Puerto Rican professor, scholar, and Jesuit priest. That was an academically spiritual moment for me.

The inventory guide will be presented in the form of a web-accessible database. Each collection record consists of such elements as name, location, description, access information, use, and index categories. Indexing includes such categories as personal or corporate name(s), e.g., for papers of politicians, political parties, literary figures; physical location on the island; and subject categories, e.g., specific personal names, specific corporate names, local history, politics, political papers, slavery, literary papers, municipal archives, church records, agriculture, sugar, tobacco, coffee, etc.

During my stay in Puerto Rico I was affiliated with the University of Puerto Rico as visiting professor. This gave me an advantage when introducing my project at various private and public archives and afforded me library privileges and opportunities to participate in a variety of academic and cultural activities on campus and in San Juan. Living in the city presented me (and my daughter, who went with me and attended high school there) with a wealth of cultural activities to attend. We lived within walking distance of the new Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico and often went to exhibit openings and related lectures. Also close by was the Belles Artes facility, home to the Puerto Rican Symphony and the venue for other musical events and dramatic performances. Lecture series and book presentations abound at many institutions.

An exhibit of the works of the Puerto Rican graphic artist Lorenzo Homar was on display at the UPR museum during my stay in Puerto Rico. This brought back many pleasant memories of Homar’s visit to and exhibition at the UConn library in fall 1985. In fact, the silk-screen poster Homar created to announce the UConn exhibit was on display at the UPR exhibition. While I was in Puerto Rico, my article “Testimonies of the past: postcards as valuable research resources,” based on research previously done in Puerto Rico in Summer 2000 and supported by a UPR Caribbean Resource Center Summer Research Fellowship, was published in the Puerto Rico Library Association’s journal, Acceso: revista puertorriqueña de bibliotecología y documentación, 4 (2002).

As for living and working in Puerto Rico in general, one of my most congenial activities was my daily morning walk on the beach, when and where I would organize my agenda for the day while contemplating the sea.

The 11th annual Connecticut Children’s Book Fair, held November 9-10, was a smashing success! The popular fair, having outgrown its previous venue in the Bishop Center, was held this year in the new Rome Commons Ballroom on the Storrs campus, more than doubling the space available. The ballroom was packed full of talented authors and illustrators, books, presentations, storytelling, and crafts—creating a great time for the more than 2500 children and adults who attended.

Participants this year included Christopher Denise, Jana Dyer, Michael Patrick Heun, Mary Ann Heiberg, Hilary Knight, Barbara Novack, Marilyn Nelson, Anita Riggio, Marc Simont, Lane Smith, Heidi Stemple, Walter Wick, Andrew Winnicki, and Jane Yolen.

On Friday, November 8, authors/illustrators Natalie Babbitt presented a program on her book “Tuck Everlasting” and the process of turning it into the new Disney film by the same name. Her presentation and the ten-day fair benefited the Northeast Children’s Literature Collection at the Dodd Research Center. A special thank you to this year’s sponsors: SBI Charlotte Trust, Inc., the Connecticut Library Association, David & Billie Kulp, Richard & Verne Mahoney & Mohegan Sun.
over, many faculty members, with a key stake in the process, have regarded increasing prices as a problem for libraries or perhaps universities to solve.

In its simplest terms, scholarly publishing is a circular enterprise in which universities pay faculty salaries to conduct research, faculty publish their research in scholarly journals, and scholarly publishers sell that research back to university libraries in the form of scholarly journals—at increasingly unsustainable prices. There is no question that publishers have overhead costs and that they add value to the scholarly publishing process. Nor is there any question that publishers are entitled to a fair profit. Rather, the question is why publishers’ prices to universities for our own product have risen so dramatically, inflating even faster than health care costs over the last decade.

We must alter the model soon. The pricing practices of scholarly publishers are forcing libraries routinely to cancel journal subscriptions. Large publishers have acquired many of their competitors and now seek to maintain significant profit margins in the new electronic publishing environment. The custom of bundling electronic journals into packages at “special rates” forces libraries to play their hand. Libraries either subscribe to a large publisher’s bundled package at the expense of canceling other publishers’ journals or choose not to buy the “package” and pay a premium for the privilege of selecting individual titles. University faculties have the power to change the equation. It’s as simple as returning the copyright (or limited rights) to articles and books that you publish. It’s as simple as asking your liaison librarian for a list of the journals in your field that are subscribed to on your behalf and determining their publishers’ pricing practices. It’s as simple as submitting your work to publishers who have a commitment to the future of scholarly publishing and withholding your work from publishers who demonstrate questionable pricing policies. It’s as simple as working with your liaison librarian to cancel subscriptions to publications that inflate by double digit year after year or register a 40% price increase in one year. Ultimately, the faculty who furnish publishers with a product to sell must provide the solution to this problem. Without faculty contributions and review, academic publishers have no merchandise to offer. Let’s work together to change the scholarly publishing model at this currently exists and stop the hemorrhaging.

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**First Strochlitz Grant Awarded**

The first Sigmund Strochlitz Travel Grant, supported by Sigmund Strochlitz of New London, has been awarded to Karen Crossley, an MA candidate in the English Department at the University of Manitoba. Ms. Crossley will travel to Storrs to conduct research using the Dodd Research Center’s substantial collection of nearly 500 editions of Black Beauty, the popular children’s classic authored by Anna Sewell in 1877.

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**A New Beverage Policy for the Library**

According to the desire, or perhaps to the need, of library users to drink beverages while they study and conduct research, the library has adopted a new policy on drinking in the UConn Libraries. Preservation officer Carole Dyal has designed a spill-proof mug for use by patrons while they work in the libraries. And so long as beverages are contained in that official mug, drinking beverages in the libraries is now permitted.

Library staff recently received their spill-proof mugs, which carry a message about the preservation of the collections, for use in their workplaces, and 500 mugs were distributed free to library users to promote the new policy. The UConn Coop now sells the mugs for $4.95 and they are reported to be selling briskly.

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**Collections & Services**

Continued from page 2

The next steps will be to organize materials held in several thousand boxes and to create written guides to the various parts of the collection. Phase two is scheduled for completion in 2004.

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**Dodd Center Annual Report Available**

The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center mailed its first printed annual report to donors and other interested parties in late October. Covering the period July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002, the report contains information on the center’s public programs, new collections, staff activities, and donor information. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact Jean Nelson at jean.nelson@uconn.edu or (860) 486-0346.

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**Yes, I want to be a Friend!**

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

- **Associate** $50-$99
- **Fellow** $100-$499
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Terese Ridgeway: A Profile of the Artist

Suzanne Zack, Assistant to the Director: Marketing & Communication

Earlier this year, the library commissioned weaver Terese Ridgeway to create four hangings for the Class of 1952 Electronic Classroom. The hangings were installed in September, and Terese was honored with a reception on November 17.

Bright colors and bold patterns are the signature of Terese Ridgeway’s award-winning weavings, but determination and an equal measure of providence are the hallmarks of her life. Consider this: If the Montana native hadn’t ventured beyond the confines of Big Sky country, she wouldn’t have attended college, taken a teaching job in Cambodia, where she met her husband, or bought an historic house in Chaplin, whose attic fortuitously housed a loom.

Over the past three decades, Ridgeway has perfected the intricacies of using the loom; today her work is represented in public and private collections throughout New England.

Born on a sheep ranch near the town of Big Timber, Ridgeway attended the University of Montana in Missoula. “At that time, there were 50 openings every year for English teachers, compared to one or two for art teachers in the state’s larger cities,” she says. That reality, combined with her flair for language, steered her to a degree in English.

After receiving her degree in English, she taught in Montana for two years and experienced what would be a glimpse into her future. “A fellow teacher took me to the school of weavers on Flathead Lake,” she recollects. “They seemed to be having so much fun weaving (4’ x 5’3”) titled ‘Planets.’ It was originally used to make rugs and mats, generally incorporating two colors of yarn. Using the theme ‘Space Travel,’ the weaving (4’ x 5’3”) entitled ‘Radiation,’ features wavy blocks of brilliant colors, reminiscent of the Northern Lights the artist remembers from growing up in Montana. The fourth and defining piece, ‘Space Ship,” is the first seen upon entering the room. All four pieces employ a warp of cotton, alternating with mercerized cotton and two wefts, or horizontal strands, of cotton cord and fine mercerized cotton.

It has been a great pleasure to do these wall hangings for the library at UConn,” she says, “since the lives of all my family have been so intertwined with the university. Hallas received all his degrees from UConn, and our three children—Lesley, Benton, and Kristoffer—did as well. I am thankful that some of myself-say art—will have a permanent place on campus!”

As part of a continuing national campaign, the Libraries’ Preservation Office has published a special poster to encourage users, who can be among the worst enemies of books, to treat library books with care. Designed by the noted contemporary American children’s book illustrator Jos. A. Smith, the poster depicts a terrifying ogre with a pair of small human feet sticking out of his mouth while he holds another human waiting to be eaten. Smith has illustrated such books as Ogres! Ogres! Ogres!; A Feasting Frenzy from A to Z and Goldilocks in Green; he originally created the squatting ogre image for a library exhibit, “Depictions of the Ogre in Puss and Boots.” Since the image so clearly portrays the fate that surely awaits those who mishandle books, it seemed appropriate for the poster.

Scott Kennedy, assistant head for Research and Information Services, wrote the accompanying text.

Copies of the 17” x 22” poster are $10. Fifty copies, autographed by Jos. Smith and Scott Kennedy, are available for $25 each. The price includes shipping and handling. For your copy, contact the Libraries’ preservation office, Carole Dill, at the Babbidge Library (w cavern/aboutus and 866. 486-5782) or write to her at Homer Babbidge Library, 369 Fairfield Road, Unit 1005-005P, University of Connecticut Storrs, CT 06269-1005. Make checks payable to the Babbidge Library.

Good luck, for your own sake, take care!

Return all books without a tear.

The ogre walks this very hour
Each book mishandled to doom.

Should you wish to avoid the fate
Return all books to a wholesome state.

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I n recent years, library staff have been laying a strong foundation for the digital collections program, building the administrative and technical infrastructure to accommodate both large and small scale projects. This has involved learning new technologies, establishing policies, identifying standards, writing and managing grants, hiring new staff, and defining procedures for digitization. During this period, we have also created digital collections in partnership with various academic departments and with organizations outside of the university.

Staff now are streamlining these efforts, developing an integrated approach to creating and managing digital resources that complements university objectives and contributes to the information needs of Connecticut's citizens and of scholars worldwide. In the future, this program will be guided by a strategic plan that regularizes digitization processes, creates new digital resources, and integrates them with traditional library collections.

In late 2002, the Libraries anticipate hiring a new full-time digital technologies librarian who will work with the digital collections librarian in support of the program. Additionally, a new library team, the Digital Collections Facilitation Team, will be populated to oversee the production of existing and new locally created digital collections.

Library staff, along with their departmental and organizational partners, continue to progress the mission of six digital collections and facilitate the planning and production of others that are in development. The initial phases of four projects have been completed, and others are nearing completion by the end of 2002. The collections, described below, include photographs, texts, and maps, and focus on a wide range of subjects.

• Benthic Macroherbarium of Long Island Sound
  http://www.algae.uconn.edu
  A joint project of the Jeremy Rich Library at UConn's Stamford and the Northeast Algal Society, this is an identification database of collected and pressed specimens of algae from Long Island Sound. It is used for teaching purposes and serves as an image archive for UConn's algal herbarium. Descriptive information and digital photographs for 157 specimens have been created and are available online. Work on the project will continue through the end of 2002.

• Colonial Connecticut Records (CCR)
  http://www.colonial.uconn.edu
  Created by library staff and supported by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center and the Connecticut State Library, CCR aims to make Connecticut's colonial history more accessible to users worldwide by the online delivery of the Public Records of the Colony of Connect-icut, 1636-1776. Phase 1 of the project is complete, providing access to scanned images of the contents of all fifteen volumes in the Public Records. Phase II is under way and will incorporate access to the full and multi-digitized text of the records.

• Connecticut Historical Online (CHO): http://chistoryonline.org
  A collaboration among the Connecticut Historical Society, the Dodd Research Center, and Mystic Seaport, CHO is the largest online collection of historical Connecticut images—approximately 18,500 images from 1800 to 1950. Phase I of the project, funded by a $355,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is complete. CHO images may be searched by keyword, subject, creator, title, and date. Geographical sites may be searched using a digital geographic locator developed by the library's Map and Geographic Information Center. Online learning tools created especially for middle and high school educators will be made available for interpreting and exploring the database. Phase II, supported by a new grant of $498,770 from the IMLS, will begin in early 2003. It will include a broad range of historical materials, including archives, manuscripts, and multimedia materials, and will include participation from the Connecticut State Library and other repositories of historical materials in Connecticut.

  IPANE, an atlas of invasive plant species for the New England area, with a concentration on the state of Connecticut, contains a wide variety of historical materials, including archives, manuscripts, and multimedia materials, and will include participation from the Connecticut State Library and other repositories of historical materials in Connecticut.

• Steam & Electric Locomotives of the New Haven Railroad
  http://railroads.uconn.edu/locomotives/index.html
  This collection provides online access to images of over 460 black-and-white photographs that document steam and electric locomotives owned and operated by the New Haven Railroad from the 1870s to the mid-1900s. The photographs have been selected from the Fred Otto Makovsky Collection, housed in Archives & Special Collections.

• Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC): http://magic.lib.uconn.edu
  An online library of digital geo- spatial data, MAGIC is the earliest and largest of the Libraries' digital collections. It contains over 24,000 files and is the premier collection of digital data on the geography of Connecticut. In addition to meeting the teaching and research needs of the university, MAGIC is also a statewide resource, serving the citizens of Connecticut.

For more information about the digital collections program, visit http://digitalcollections.uconn.edu or contact Heidi N. Abbey at heidiall@ionnet.uconn.edu.

The Digital Collections Program

Heldi N. Abbey, Digital Collections Librarian

Beverly Manning, Reference Librarian, Hartlieb B. Trecker Library

Creation of a new forum for the discussion of current issues has strengthened the position of the Trecker Library on the UConn/Greater Hartford campus. The forum has helped to revitalize the intellectual life of the campus, which had stagnated over four years of uncertainty as the university administration dealt with issues related to the future of the regional campuses.

These issues were resolved by the creation of the new NiTrCampus (Greater Hartford/Waterbury/Torrington), with new programs and new leadership, including a new director for the UConn/Greater Hartford campus. New levels of responsibility for NiTrCampus were provided for by the directors of the regional campuses, who called for the libraries to become more involved in the life of their local academic communities.

Responding to this charge, Trecker Library sponsored a successful Black History Month program in February 2001. Soon after, the designation of Fall 2001 as a Human Rights Semester, with funding available for programming, became the inspiration for an expansion of that first program into a new library approach to community involvement.

Library director Bill Uricho, Daniel O'Reilly of Student Affairs, and I met to discuss the idea of jointly sponsored continuing forums where the open discussion of current issues would be encouraged to be combined with the programming of the “Hot Issues Forum,” formed a planning committee, which included faculty from the School of Social Work and the undergraduate program, and applied successfully for a Human Rights Semester grant of $1,800 to support our Fall 2001 forum.

The grant allowed us to invite State Senator Eric Coleman and author Antoinette Bosco, of the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty, to speak on “The Death Penalty in Connecticut”; and professor Donna Robinson of Smith College and Dr. Mazin B. Qumsiyeh, Yale University School of Medicine, to speak on “The Palestinian Question.” We were grateful to the Center for the Study of International Relations of the School of Social Work and the undergraduate program, and applied successfully for a Human Rights Semester grant of $1,800 to support our Fall 2001 forum.

The Hot Topics Forum continued in Spring 2002 with programs on “The AIDS Crisis in Africa” with professor James Karamwendo of Uganda; “Ethnic Profiling” with Teresa Younger, executive director of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union; “Terrorism: The Media, the Historian, and the Problem of Instant Analysis” with professor Paul Goodman; and a reenactment of the “Black Civil War Soldier” by Kevin Johnson of the State Library.

A second Human Rights grant has supported our Fall 2002 forums on “The Abuse of Incarceration in America” by Sherry Haller of the Justice Education Center, and “The Invisibility of the Latino and Latina Community in the United States” by professor Julius Morales of the School of Social Work. In addition, assistant professor C. Ogne Kwokwej is offering a program on “Slavery Reparations.”

The Hot Topics Forum series is making a lively and stimulating contribution to campus life. Students, faculty, staff and the general public have participated in the forums, and shown deep interest in the speakers. The offerings on “The AIDS Crisis in Africa” and “The Invisibility of the Latino and Latina Community in the United States,” in particular, had great impact on their audiences.

Other positive outcomes are noteworthy. The new campus administration is impressed with the library’s leadership, and the faculty is pleased to discover a program that improves intellectual life on campus. After seeing the response to the Hot Topics Forum, other groups on campus have been inspired to offer their own programs. A new awareness of the role of the library as a center of campus life and of librarians as participants in the educational enterprise has emerged.

“Hot Issues” Forum at UConn/Greater Hartford

Heldi N. Abbey, Digital Collections Librarian
Fritzi Batchelor’s friends, family, and former colleagues gathered at a reception in her honor on November 3 to dedicate the Level B microlab as the Fritzi Batchelor Microcomputer Lab. In addition, an endowment has been established in her honor to support “continuing advancements in information technology.” Over $290,000 has been donated to the fund to date. In addition, contributions from friends and family, significant donations were received from the UConn Co-op and from Endeavor Information Systems (EIS), the vendor of the Libraries’ integrated library system software, Voyager. In 2003, the Endowment Fund, ENCoPais. In his remarks, library director Brinley Franklin noted that EIS wanted assurance that Fritzi was, indeed, retired. She has been an astute, assertive and relentless commentator on their software, though always diplomatic and always with the intent of improving it for users. Fritzi served the Libraries for 25 years until her retirement in April 2002. She was involved with technological developments early on. Most recently, as director of the Libraries’ Information Technology Services Area, she managed the successful effort that culminated in the launch of Voyager in 1999 and led a knowledgeable team capable of anticipating and meeting the information technology needs of library staff and users. Contributions to the Fritzi Batchelor Information Technology Fund are welcome. Please direct them to Linda Perrone, Director of External Relations, Dodd Research Center, 405 Babbdidge Road, Unit 1205, Storrs, CT 06269-1205. Make checks payable to the UConn Foundation and note “Fritzi Batchelor Technology Endowment Fund” on the memo line.

Darlene Hull has been elected president of the international Latin American librarians association, the American Library Association’s Latin American Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials. Organized in 1956 under the aegis of the Organization of American States’ Library and Bibliographic Development Program, and incorporated as an independent association in 1968, SALALM addresses the needs of librarians, booksellers, educators and others concerned with building library collections of Latin American and Caribbean materials and making them available for scholarly use. As president, Darlene will develop the program for this year’s annual conference, “Celebrating Culture: Space, Symbol, and Traditions in Latin America and the Caribbean,” in Cartagena, Colombia. Presentations and panel discussions will focus on topics such as art and “artesanías,” architecture and other elements of the physical urban and rural cultures, music and dance, literature, food and costume, theatre and film, language, and ritual practices. Darlene recently returned from a visit to Cartagena where she worked on preparations for the conference, including meetings with local host representatives from the Banco de la República and the Universidad Jóven Tadeo Lasso, Seccional del Caribe as well as with potential panels and keynote speakers. She toured the conference hotel facilities (an old convent) in the colonial section, as well as workshop and reception locations. In her post-presidential year Darlene will edit and publish the conference proceedings, SALALM papers, XLVIII.

Patrick McLamery and the UConn Libraries’ Map & Geographic Information Center (MAGIC) were honored at the 22nd Annual ESRI International User Conference held in San Diego in July, receiving a Special Achievement Award as an organization “that provides substantial benefits to society through the use of GIS technology.” ESRI is a leader in GIS software, and the conference attracted 12,000 GIS professionals from around the world. A busy summer for Patrick began in June, when MAGIC hosted the annual Northeast Map User’s Organization; a week later, he moderated a panel discussion at the LASSIST Conference held on the Stors campus. In July, he traveled to Atlanta to present a workshop for the Map and Geography Division of the American Library Association. Following the ESRI Conference, Patrick attended the Joint Conference on Digital Libraries in Portland, OR, presenting the paper, “Inferring Areal Geographies for Non-bounded Places.” In August, at the International Federation of Library Associations Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, Patrick and former UConn staffer Terry Plums presented a half-day workshop on “Scanning Maps for Information Content for Small Libraries and Local Historical Collections.” By popular demand, Patrick is currently repeating two seven-week seminars—one on Map Libraries in Ireland and a second on Digital Map Librarianship—at Simmons College Graduate School of Library Science.

Janice Mathews has joined the staff of the Harleigh B. Trecker Library, UConn/Greater Hartford, as social sciences librarian. Janice most recently served as head of Hartford Public Library’s Hartford Collection. Previously, she was employed with the University of Washington’s Manuscripts and University Archives, where she worked closely with faculty, in particular the fields of history, sociology and education, to draft a collection development policy. She has also been an archivist at the Carl Albert Congressional Archives, with special collections dedicated to congressional studies and political science, at the University of Oklahoma. In her new assignment she will serve as liaison to the Urban and Community Studies and undergraduate social sciences programs. Her other duties include coordinating roles for the Trecker Library’s public information and web development activities. Janice has an MLS and an MA in American History, both from Indiana University, and a BA in History from Earlham College.

Correction In our last issue, Francine DeFranco was mistakenly referred to as the First Year Experience coordinator for the library. The FYE coordinator is Kathy Lahbardor.

In southern New England’s golden age of railroads, massive engines pulled freight and passenger cars to and from virtually every town between New York City and Boston. The locomotives were respected for their power, their industry, and their beauty. The predominant railroad of the time was the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, better known as the New Haven Railroad. It influenced everything from the growth of the region’s commerce and industry to working class leisure activities and Boston Brahmin vacation plans. The exhibit presents images from Railroad History Archive at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center Gallery. Patrick attended the Joint Conference on Digital Libraries in Portland, OR, presenting the paper, “Inferring Areal Geographies for Non-bounded Places.” In August, at the International Federation of Library Associations Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, Patrick and former UConn staffer Terry Plums presented a half-day workshop on “Scanning Maps for Information Content for Small Libraries and Local Historical Collections.” By popular demand, Patrick is currently repeating two seven-week seminars—one on Map Libraries in Ireland and a second on Digital Map Librarianship—at Simmons College Graduate School of Library Science. •

Loots from the New Haven Railroad Images from the Railroad History Archive

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Diane Bowie Zaitlin's work demonstrates her fascination with a variety of materials, subtlety of color, and sensuality of surface. Using a variety of paints, incised marks, found objects, and collage elements, she gives new presence and meaning to common objects. Simple wooden cubes become intriguing, tactile objects reminiscent of childhood playing blocks; antique doors invite you into a new reality, and wooden industrial moulds become figurative metaphors. Diane Bowie Zaitlin earned a BFA in Sculpture at the University of Connecticut. She has also studied at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine over the past twenty years. Her solo exhibitions have been at Davidson and Daughter’s Contemporary Art, Portland, Maine; University of New England, Gorham; Thomas More College, Waukesha, Wisconsin; Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia; Augusta, Maine; and Saint Joseph’s College, North Windham, Maine. She has exhibited in Pennsylvania, New York State, and throughout New England. Her work has been included in the “Monotype Today” exhibits curated by Roger Crossgrove. For the past ten years, Diane has been an Artist-in-Residence in schools performing arts programs throughout Maine with the Maine Artists Touring Program. •

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Staff News
In the Heart
Fabric Reliefs by Salley Mavor


Salley describes the experience of working on the book as follows: “Since it took two years to complete the illustrations for this book, I needed to find ways to stay involved and excited about the project over a long period of time. There was a lot of freedom in this story to create a world and family from my own imagination. Falling in love with the characters also helps to maintain an interest. I concentrated on one double-page spread at a time, bringing the words to life through color and texture. It was my goal to have fun and play with this story, to maintain a fresh, enjoyable attitude throughout the process of making the pictures.”

Book reviewers have greeted the book with praise, saying, “Arts and crafts enthusiasts will find inspiration in Mavor’s work; nearly everyone will find something to admire.” (Publisher’s Weekly), and, “Artistically successful in its near-perfect blending of text and visuals” (School Library Journal).

For more information about the variety of work created by Salley Mavor, see her website at http://www.weefolkstudio.com/

Of Birdhouses & Geometry
Recent Sculpture by Beth Henderson

Beth Henderson combines her former experience as a Maine educator with her current association as an artist. At seven and eight years of age, she built birdhouses from discarded orange crates and sketched backyard birds with colored pencils. “In high school,” she says, “I often detoured enviously by the art room, wishing that my academic curriculum would allow me to take art classes. I loved the smell of oils and coveted the art kids’ engagement with their work as opposed to my passive student role as a listener.”

Beth’s sculptures, fashioned from found materials that range from burdock to vacuum cleaner parts, are whimsical in nature. They were created during the winter months, when outdoor work on stone becomes impossible, and derive from thirty years spent in the company of school kids of all ages.

Stone and wood, however, remain Beth’s passion. Her process and approach for carving is driven both by the character of each stone and also by her intentions for its outcome. “It definitely becomes an ongoing conversation between the stone and me about our combined potential. The challenge, “as with kids,” she believes, “is to discover, nurture, and help release this energy stuff.” Alabaster, Maine limestone, and marble are her chosen varieties of stone. “Alabasters, while fragile and cranky in personality, ultimately hold great joy and beauty."

In recent months, Beth’s sculptures have been juried into the Gallery for Social and Political Art on Boylston Street in Boston, the annual juried show at Hartford Artworks, the Arts Affair for Copley Square in Boston, the Concord (MA) Art Association, and the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts juried exhibits at the Slater Museum in Norwich, the Mystic Art Association, and the Artwell Gallery in Torrington.

She lives and works at the Pumpkin Hill Studios in Ashford, where visitors are invited to view her work.