California Transplant Pays Tribute to Connecticut Childhood with Gift to UConn Libraries

Harriet Maclean loved memories of the summers spent on her grandparents' farm in Mansfield. She also loved languages and books.

Her fondness for both moved her to make generous gifts to UConn's library during her lifetime and to donate nearly a quarter of her estate to the library after her death.

"It's a librarian's dream come true," says Brinley Franklin, vice provost of the libraries who was surprised and delighted when the UConn Foundation received a check for $465,000 for the library's use from her estate. "We had been in touch with her over the years, thanking her for annual gifts, but we had no idea she had pledged a gift of this magnitude."

Maclean grew up in Willimantic and remained fond of the area after she relocated to Alaska for work in the 1940s. She settled in California, where she remained until her death in 2011.

She didn't attend UConn, but she visited the library during a visit to Storrs in 1981. "She and her sister came to the library and spoke of their strong attachment to the area," says Norman Stevens, director emeritus of the UConn Libraries. "She said she had very fond memories of the area and wanted to make a contribution to the library. She established a non-endowed fund for the purchase of books and materials related to French literature, which was her great passion," says Stevens. She made regular annual contributions to the fund throughout her life.

Through travels with her husband, Maclean fell in love with Paris and everything French. She traveled there frequently, and, midlife, decided to pursue a college degree in French literature. She graduated with honors from Sonoma State College. "She was a

Continued on page 3

UConn’s Student Newspaper Digitized and Online

Campus as Seen through Student Eyes Since 1896

In its 116 year existence, UConn's student newspaper has transitioned from a four-page black and white monthly publication into the highest circulation college daily newspaper in Connecticut. Now its readership is about to get another boost when the UConn Libraries digitizes issues dating back to its origins and places them online.

"We get requests about the Daily Campus on a fairly regular basis," says University Archivist Betsy Pittman, a proponent of the initiative, which began in the spring of 2012. While the Archives holds bound copies as well as issues on microfilm, the film was starting to show wear from usage, giving impetus to the digitization effort, she said. That usage, coupled with a strong desire to provide the campus community and other interested parties with 24/7 access was the rationale for the project.

"It's hard to document the student experience on campus because when they graduate, they take all those experiences with them," Pittman asserts. "The student newspaper is a wonderful record of campus life because it's what happens as seen through students' eyes. It's not the Journal Inquirer, the Willimantic Chronicle, or the Hartford Courant; it's far more personal."

When the project is completed, readers will be able to view each issue in its entirety.
FROM THE VICE PROVOST

Continuously Improving

Welcome to a new semester! It is with pride that I tell you that user satisfaction with the University of Connecticut Libraries has continuously improved since we began formal user surveys in 1996. Our most recent user survey, conducted in the spring of 2012, continued this trend, with faculty leading the way in general satisfaction scores, increasing 8 percent between 2006 and 2012. Graduate student satisfaction also improved 4 percent, with undergraduate students scoring 2 percent higher during the same period. Overall, the satisfaction of our users increased by 5 percent from 4.04 to 4.23 on a 5 point scale.

However, never content to rest on its laurels, the UConn Libraries staff is working to improve its services with a number of exciting initiatives in Academic Year 2012-2013. Some of these initiatives, organized by the Libraries’ three program areas are:

Undergraduate Education and Access Services
- Enhancing Library Learning Spaces – The Libraries will receive a small percentage of the new student technology fee for the first time this year and will use these funds to increase the number of free scanners and electrical outlets available to students, to replace public workstations, and to improve technology in library classrooms and learning commons spaces.
- Supporting UConn’s Online Learning Initiative – Working with instructional design staff, the Libraries will have an increased presence in online learning through tutorials, podcasts, and customized resources like LibGuides, our subject specific resources.
- Evaluating Next Generation Integrated Library Systems – A project team will investigate the various attributes of the current generation of integrated library systems (ILS) and make a recommendation as to whether replacing the Libraries’ current ILS would improve our users’ digital library experience and improve library workflows.
- Integrating the Regional Campus Libraries into Undergraduate Education and Access Services – Effective this year, the regional campus libraries are now part of the Libraries’ Undergraduate Education and Access Services program area. By collaborating more broadly and extending service innovations University-wide, users at each UConn location will benefit.

Library Research Services
- Developing Data Management Services for UConn Researchers and Scholars – The Libraries continue to offer workshops for faculty and graduate students on data management plans and will engage in several pilot projects with UConn faculty related to data management services such as descriptions of data sets, data archiving, and making data accessible.
- Building Online Collections – The Libraries currently offer access to 91,000 electronic journals and 401,266 electronic books and will continue to focus this year on access to collections and information resources that can be delivered electronically.
- Increase Patron Driven Acquisitions – After a successful pilot program in FY ’12, the Libraries have increased the funding available for patron-initiated purchases, shifting from “just in case” selection by librarians to purchases that will be immediately used and, in some cases, would cost more to borrow.

University Archives, Special Collections, and Digital Curation
- Digitize High Demand Collections in University Archives & Special Collections – The Libraries will continue to digitize unique materials for which we have the rights and make them accessible online when requested by researchers.
- Digital Repository Development – The Libraries are completing a project this year to implement a digital repository service using an open access architecture that will manage, preserve, and make accessible digital objects of value to the UConn community and beyond.

The Libraries’ staff is proud of the services it provides to the UConn community and, by working each year on a carefully selected set of new initiatives, will continue to improve and expand library services in the rapidly changing digital library environment.

The Libraries’ Diversity Advisory Team arranged for the new director of the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center (PRLACC), Fany Hannon, to speak about the resources available at PRLACC to members of the campus community. Shown here before her presentation are, left to right: Diversity Team members Beth Rumery, Alice Fairfield, Jennifer Lanzing, Hannon, and Richard Bleiler.
and track the evolution of the University and its student newspaper from the Storrs Agricultural College’s The Lookout, a monthly publication, which debuted in May, 1896. It transitioned to a twice monthly publication in 1899, when it became the Connecticut Agricultural School, and to The Connecticut Campus in 1914, which became a weekly and later a thrice weekly publication, followed by the Connecticut Daily Campus, and then finally the Daily Campus in 1984.

Thus far, years 1896 to 1906 have been completed and may be viewed in the University’s institutional repository, UConn’s Digital Commons, at: http://digitalcommons.uchc.edu/dcamp/.

Other issues of the newspaper will be added as they are digitized with issues published through 1990 expected to be completed by next summer.

The retrospective Daily Campus online conversion project is managed by the Libraries’ Digital Programs Team (DPT), a department within Archives, Special Collections, and Digital Curation. Since 2008, DPT has overseen digitization of thousands of volumes and millions of pages from UConn’s stacks, via in-house capture as well as through out-sourcing vendors with the goal of providing 24/7/365 ubiquitous access to the rich information resources held here. Inquiries and suggestions from the UConn community are welcome at digitalcollections@uconn.edu.

In addition to being an historical record of the University’s evolution, the newspaper has served as a training ground for budding journalists. A number of Daily Campus former staffers have become accomplished journalists after graduation and have been featured in the University’s alumni magazine including: former New York Times sports editor, Frank Litsky, now retired; Eric Owles, who is the multimedia producer at the Times; Leigh Montville who wrote for the Boston Globe and Sports Illustrated; Les Payne, who is a syndicated columnist for Newsday, and John Yearwood, who is world editor at the Miami Herald.

“I think this is a wonderful effort,” said Elizabeth Crowley, the current editor-in-chief of the Daily Campus. “Digitizing the DC means that UConn will have a comprehensive historical record. This record will show daily, as well as major, milestones and give an account of the general consensus and feelings the community had about events, which can be lost in broader historical accounts. This is fantastic for both the University and the paper.”

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The women’s basketball team, probably in early 1907, included: left forward and team manager Grace E. Seage, right forward Cora D. Grant, a “centre” named Hubbard, left guard and team captain Lena M. Hurlbut, right guard Mary E. Costello, and sub Muriel W. Beers.

The men’s team: left forward Robert J. Vance, right forward Clifford S. Watrous, “centre” Joseph H. Conzelman, left guard and captain Arthur E. Miller, right guard Harry J. Bothfeld, and subs Patrick H. Murphy and O. Perry Burr. Norman W. Purple was the team manager.
Labadorfs Complete a 4,600 Mile, 25-Day Motorcycle Odyssey
A Journey of Body, Mind, and Spirit into the American Landscape

Kathy Labadorf

It had been in the back of my husband Tom’s mind ever since the ’80s when he read Robert Pirsig’s *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry into Values* that he wanted to retrace the route Pirsig himself traveled from Minnesota to San Francisco. It would be more than a road trip; it would be a journey of body, mind, and spirit into the American landscape, on the ground, in each moment surrounded by all the elements of nature.

But we were busy raising two young children then, working on our careers as professional musicians, and I simply felt that motorcycles were just too dangerous.

Fast forward to 2011. Our kids are out of college, well established in their own lives, and once again, it’s just the two of us as we were in 1976 when we were just married. Back then, we went backpacking on the Appalachian Trail (just part of the way), but now motorcycles came back into the conversation. “Hmm,” I thought: “As long as I have my own. I’m not riding on the back!”

We bought two Suzuki VStrom 650s (recommended by colleague Steve Batt), took the training course, both passed, and had the “M” on our licenses by end of April. That August we took our first long trip to Nova Scotia; 2,600 miles round trip, just four months after first getting on a motorcycle. The word “crazy” comes to mind when we think about that trip today, but we did it, and had a fabulous vacation.

This year our 25-day trip totaled more than 4,600 miles from Nevada to Connecticut. We flew to Nevada and rode our bikes back home. And though we didn’t follow Pirsig’s route, the experience was truly life changing. Tom spent 10 months planning the trip. Our dining room table was topped with a large laminated map of the U.S. and we started plotting our “must see” points: Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, Cottonwood Pass, Santa Fe, and Lexington, Kentucky. In the end, there were amazing places to see every day and incredible roads and views of the noble Rockies to the ancient red rock formations, deep canyons and golden grasslands with endless horizons.

Motorcycle touring has its unique requirements. No matter the temperature, you always wear the gear — jacket, riding pants, boots, gloves, and helmet. We were riding during the third hottest summer in the continental U.S. in our lifetime — that is, since 1950. Luckily, another avid rider and former library staff, Nancy Martin, had told us about evaporative cooling vests. We wore these under our jackets after soaking them in water for a few minutes, and the evaporation kept us pretty comfortable west of the Mississippi. And the rule, “Start early, finish early,” kept us out of the worst heat most days.

Another consideration for our trip was to keep the daily miles at a reasonable level, for us that’s around 200, much less than car travel. As riders, we must always be in the moment, aware of all the activity around and ahead, scanning for debris in the road, cars turning and pulling out, animals (prairie dogs, especially) that are ready to dart in front of you. It’s intense concentration. But it also helps you see so much more, hear, and smell everything. Our longest day was about 325 miles, done in 100 degree weather, through Kansas to Missouri.

There were so many memorable places I can only mention a few. All the National Parks along the southern section of Utah were so unique. Zion, with its Virgin River and Kolob Canyon, Bryce with its amazing colors changing moment to moment, and Natural Bridges, one of the five darkest places in North America and the night sky is part of their protected areas (they even have an astronomer ranger who offers weekly events). We camped at Natural Bridges and spent time just marveling at the Milky Way and the billions of stars. During the day, we rode through the Valley of the Gods, up and down Moki Dugway, and out to Muley Point Overlook, with incredible views of Monument Valley.

Colorado gave us the most amazing and fun roads and with the elevation — we were

Continued on page 5
up at 11,000 feet as we went over Molas Pass on the Million Dollar Highway — we could forget the heat wave for a while.

In New Mexico, after beautiful Santa Fe, we traveled to the first of two UNESCO World Heritage Sites on our trip, the Taos Pueblo village. The village formed around A.D. 1,000 and two of the original buildings are still in use. There is a long and complex history with the Spanish and Catholicism. The San Geronimo Chapel places the Virgin Mary in the center of the altar and surrounding her statue are painted vegetables and vines as she is the provider of harvests. It is an amazing culture.

Being on the ground and immersed in nature and culture across this country left us both in awe and wanting more.

We’re planning our next trip down to West Virginia in 2013. More mountains, more great roads, maybe even doing the Tail of the Dragon, an 11-mile twisty stretch at the Tennessee and North Carolina border. We’ll see. Our adventures continue.

Kathy Labadorf, Undergraduate Services Librarian & Subject Specialist for Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Recipient of a bachelor’s degree in Music Education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Labadorf taught and performed on flute for 25 years with groups such as Hop River Chamber Music, Overtura Obscura, Musique du Jour, and others in the New England area.

Tom Labadorf performed for 24 years with the U.S. Coast Guard Band, and is now completing his Doctor of Musical Arts at UConn. He teaches clarinet at C.C.S.U. and Connecticut College, plays principal clarinet with Waterbury Symphony, and regularly performs with Harmonia V, Hop River Chamber Players, and with many other chamber music ensembles.

A group of hoodoos, thin spires of rock that protrude from the bottom of an arid drainage basin in Bryce Canyon.

Sunset at Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah. The limestone, mixed with varying amounts of iron oxide, make for myriad color variations in the formations.
Libraries Sponsor New Grant Funding Tool

Steve Batt

As UConn strives to increase the amount of grant-funded research being conducted across its campuses, a new online resource will help make it easier for faculty to discover new funding opportunities from government, foundation, corporate, and other sources. In partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Research, the UConn Libraries now co-funds access to Pivot (http://pivot.uconn.edu), a comprehensive database of over 26,000 grant funding opportunities worth an estimated $33 billion.

Upon establishing an account in Pivot, UConn researchers can search for funding in any area of research, share information on funding opportunities with colleagues, and track individual grants. Researchers can save searches, which will be run automatically in Pivot every week. This provides an easy way to receive weekly alerts of new grants as they’re made available, and also receive instant updates on active and tracked opportunities.

Pivot can also play a role in fostering research collaboration between disciplines, departments and campuses. In addition to being a database of funding opportunities, Pivot is pre-populated with scholar profiles for all UConn faculty with information on research expertise, publication data harvested from proprietary databases and websites, and past sponsored activities. Pivot matches these researcher profiles to grant opportunities in the database for instant funding matches, and suggests potential grant collaborators both within and outside UConn. Faculty can “claim” their profile, and then modify and update their information in Pivot.

In addition to research grants, Pivot provides detailed information on postdoctoral funding sources, fellowships, and travel grants available to graduate students. Undergraduate students researching graduate programs can also use Pivot to determine which scholars are pursuing research in a particular field, across a universe of 3 million scholars in Pivot from more than 2,000 universities around the world.

Workshops on using Pivot will be held throughout the academic year. For the schedule and registration information, please see: http://lib.uconn.edu/instruction/workshop/

Gift of Note: Some 8,000 Music CDs Donated to Music & Dramatic Arts Library

Anna Kijas and Phara Bayonne

The Music & Dramatic Arts Library began the fall semester on a decidedly sweeter note this year. In July 2012, the library received a donation of almost 8,000 music CDs in a broad spectrum of styles from Stamford resident and collector Ira Wolff.

Wolff’s donation, which arrived at the Music & Dramatic Arts Library in 78 boxes, reflects a broad range of genres, including approximately 1,300 jazz, 1,250 classical, 2,600 rock, 600 film soundtracks, 250 country western, 225 theater/musical, 350 opera, 900 world, 300 popular, 150 big band, and 60 gospel CDs.

In a conversation with Stamford Regional Campus Library Director Phara Bayonne, Wolff, who is in his 80s, revealed that he began collecting music CDs only about eight or nine years ago when he realized that he did not have much of a music collection. He collected widely, scouring CD dealers and bookstores, and sometimes library sales, for items for his own edification. He said he wanted the collection to have a strong educational value when he ultimately donated it to an educational institution.

Many of the CDs from this collection will be processed and added to our existing audio collection. The great breadth and variety of this CD collection will allow the Music & Dramatic Arts Library to not only fill in existing gaps in areas such as popular or rock ‘n’ roll music, but also include performers and ensembles representative of various decades, genres, forms, and styles.

Wolff was a writer for NBC in the 1950s, who created presentations for advertising agencies in anticipation of new programs, including such long running hits as “Bonanza,” and Sid Caesar’s “Your Show of Shows.”

In addition to his music collection, Wolff also collected detective books, movie scripts, and 19th century photography books, which he has donated to other college libraries throughout the United States.

Gift of Note: Some 8,000 Music CDs Donated to Music & Dramatic Arts Library

Steve Batt, Undergraduate Education, Federal Data and Journalism Librarian.

Gift of Note: Some 8,000 Music CDs Donated to Music & Dramatic Arts Library

Anna Kijas, Music & Dramatic Arts Librarian.

Phara Bayonne, Stamford Regional Campus Library Director.

Gift of Note: Some 8,000 Music CDs Donated to Music & Dramatic Arts Library

Left: UConn’s Waterbury campus experienced a record-high enrollment in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), a non-credit learning experience for older adults, and kicked off the fall semester with an open house and a keynote talk on the brain and aging by faculty member Laura Donorfrio on August 18. OLLI participants enjoy community borrowing privileges at the library and are enthusiastic users, reports Waterbury Library Director Shelley Goldstein.
New Research Skills Workshop Series for Grad and Prospective Grad Students

Marisol Ramos

Homer Babbidge Library has launched a new workshop series for graduate and prospective graduate students aimed at providing the research skills needed for successful academic careers.

Based on the feedback received last spring from graduate students attending the Introduction to Literature Reviews workshops, we learned that graduate students were hungry for more in-depth workshops that would help them better use specialized library databases, as well as any other assistance that the library could offer that would support their graduate work.

The workshop series started this fall and features sessions with an interdisciplinary approach on the following: find tests and measurements for Psychology; documenting analysis for historical research; business research, finding and keeping up with the latest research in the Sciences; discovering primary sources in historical databases; using census data for Social Science research; and using cloud-based digital tools.

For a complete listing and to register, please go to:
http://www.lib.uconn.edu/instruction/workshop/

Stay tuned for more announcements as we prepare the next line up of workshops for spring 2013. If you don’t see a workshop that you need, feel free to contact us at the library with your ideas.

Marisol Ramos, Librarian for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Latino Studies, Spanish, and Anthropology, & Curator of the Latin American and Caribbean Collections.

Public Printing Made Easier with Husky Print

The University Libraries has simplified the process of public printing on campus with HuskyPrint. By using HuskyPrint through a UCONN-SECURE connection and your HuskyBucks, you can print in color or black & white from your PC, Mac, or any computer in the library. Access to 20+ printers across six UConn campus print stations is just one click away. Locations in Storrs include: Homer Babbidge Library; Music & Dramatic Arts Library; Pharmacy Library; Rowe Center for Undergraduate Education (formerly CUE) Room 132; School of Business Room 225; Student Union Room 107; and Wilbur Cross.

At the regional campuses, locations include: Avery Point Library; Greater Hartford Library; Stamford Library and School of Business; Torrington Library, Waterbury Library and Room 225.

The cost remains the same, $.10 per one-sided page, black & white and $.35 per side for color.

For a list of the type of printer as well as general instructions see http://print.uconn.edu.

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: $100–$249
- Fellow: $250–$499
- Curator: $500–$999
- Patron: $1,000–$4,999
- Benefactor: $5,000–$9,999
- University Librarian’s Circle: $10,000+

Total Amount Enclosed $ ________________

Name __________________________________________
Address ________________________________________
City ___________________________________________
State_________________Zip____________________
Phone _______________________

Please make checks payable to:
The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc.
Attn: Data Services
2390 Alumni Drive, U-3206
Storrs, CT 06269-3206
www.foundation.uconn.edu

The Jeremy Richard Library Learning Commons in Stamford has completed a striking redesign of their library services desk. For the first time, the desk includes not only friendly and knowledgeable students and staff, as evidenced by Director Phara Bayonne, pictured here, but also student tech support from the campus IT staff, creating easy access to all library and computer lab services available at UConn Stamford.

In Brief

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The workshop series started this fall and features sessions with an interdisciplinary approach on the following: find tests and measurements for Psychology; documenting analysis for historical research; business research, finding and keeping up with the latest research in the Sciences; discovering primary sources in historical databases; using census data for Social Science research; and using cloud-based digital tools.

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Stay tuned for more announcements as we prepare the next line up of workshops for spring 2013. If you don’t see a workshop that you need, feel free to contact us at the library with your ideas.

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Some 75 well-wishers, including family, friends, and library staff, joined together on May 9 to celebrate former Library Director Norman Stevens’ 80th birthday at a luncheon in the Auriemma Family Reading Room of Homer Babbidge Library. Stevens, an ardent and longtime supporter of the Libraries asked those who wished to honor him to do so by making a contribution to the UConn Libraries. Friends heeded his request and generously donated $5,500, which will be divided among the Class of 1956 Archives Endowment, the UConn Libraries Exhibits Program, and the recently established Jan Merrill-Oldham-Fund, which honors the memory of a longtime staff member who developed the library’s conservation and preservation program. Stevens, who wrote a remembrance of Merrill-Oldham in the Libraries’ winter newsletter, said some $3,500 has been donated.

To commemorate the landmark natal occasion, seven artist friends of Stevens created works that captured the veteran librarian’s myriad interests and spirit, which were framed and presented to him during the event. Participating artists included: noted children’s artists Wendell Minor, Leonard Everett Fisher, Jackie Urbanovic, Barbara McClintock, Tomie dePaola, Marc Simont, and portraitist Hans Weiss, whose images of Sens. Thomas J. Dodd and his son, Christopher J. Dodd, hang in the foyer of the Dodd Research Center.

Following the celebration, Stevens expressed gratitude saying, “I was pleased that the UConn Libraries organized a luncheon to celebrate my 80th birthday especially since I have been associated with the library and the University for more than half my life.”

We hope Norman will continue to be a presence in the UConn Libraries for many years to come.

Top, left to right: Billie Levy, the moving force behind the Northeast Children’s Literature Collection in Archives & Special Collections, captures the festivities with her camera; the beautiful birthday cake, Vice Provost Brinley Franklin addresses the group in the Auriemma Family Reading Room in Babbidge Library; John Magnan, a noted wood sculptor who has exhibited his work in the library, with his wife, Annie, and the guest of honor; Norman and his sister, Fran Crosby, of New Hampshire; noted children’s book author and illustrator and longtime friend of Stevens, Tomie dePaola; below, Norman and Leonard Everett Fisher, the well-known author and illustrator, and one of the artists who created a special drawing of Stevens that was incorporated into a bookmark for the occasion.
Open House

With an ambitious plan to hire more faculty members already underway at UConn, the Libraries hosted a reception for new and returning faculty on September 27 and shared information about new resources and services. Among those who participated at the event in Babbidge Library’s Homer Commons were: clockwise, from top right: Rosa Chinchilla, left, Literature, Cultures & Languages (LCL), catches up with Marisol Ramos, Subject Librarian for Latin American & Caribbean Studies; Tina Chiappetta-Miller, (LCL), left, and Jo Ann Reynolds, Coordinator, Course Reserves, discuss using reserves in film studies; Music Professor Bob Stephens learns about Pivot, a new comprehensive grant funding resource; Sara Johnson, (LCL), learns about current plans for data management from David Lowe, Digital Programs Team Leader & Preservation Librarian; Vice Provost Brinley Franklin, left, and Art & Design Librarian Michael Young, center, welcome Jeffrey Shoulson, new Director of the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life; Geography & Geographic Information Systems Librarian Michael Howser, left, visits with Geography Department Head Jeffrey Osleeb and Music & Dramatic Arts Librarian Anna Kijas; IT Team Leader Tony Molloy, left, explains the newest technology available to offer Harel from Statistics.
University’s Landscape Architect and Tree Warden Oversees Care of UConn’s Verdant Vistas

Eileen McHugh

As University Landscape Architect and University Tree Warden I work cooperatively with faculty and staff to protect, restore, and maintain the University’s tree collection.

During the two years I’ve been at UConn, I’ve focused primarily on protecting existing trees. Like other tree wardens within the state, I face similar challenges: a lack of maintenance funds, plantings in the wrong place, conflicts with utilities and varying attitudes towards trees from the community. On campus, the major threats to existing trees are interference with existing utilities or buildings, proposed removals to accommodate new buildings and additions, and the daily threats to tree health, which occur on an individual level but compound in a community of 20,000 students, faculty, and staff.

The conflict between trees and utilities is familiar to people in our region. In 2011 three major storms: the June 1st tornado in Western Massachusetts, Tropical Storm Irene at the end of August, and “Snowtober” on Halloween weekend, destroyed trees causing widespread power outages and road closures. How did UConn fare? The Monday after October’s snowstorm, UConn was open because we generate our own power and our utility distribution is underground within the campus core.

With underground utility lines, we are not only spared storm-related power outages, but enjoy a beautiful campus core free of the blight of overhead wires. However, when our utilities do need repair, excavation is required which may damage a mature tree or cause its removal. We employ best practices common to all horticulturists: “right plant, right place,” and discourage tree planting over underground utility lines. Additionally, as the University Landscape Architect, it is my responsibility to work with architects, engineers, and our own Facilities department to create organized utility corridors, which leave space free of underground utilities, and allow for the establishment of a mature tree canopy.

We also work with architects and engineers on the design of new buildings and additions to minimize the impact to the existing trees. We encourage the design team to find solutions that accomplish both the programming needs of the building and protecting our mature canopy. A good example recently occurred during the design of the addition to McMahon Hall’s dining facility. The design option that was selected fit the building envelope onto the site, protected the healthy trees, and allowed for a grander building entrance than was originally envisioned.

This type of planning and design effort will be required in the future. One of our last remaining groups of mature trees in the core of the campus is “Oak Woods,” an area bordered by Whitney and Gilbert Road surrounding the former fraternity houses. Can we envision a redevelopment of this area that includes protecting these healthy mature oak trees?

Trees are not only affected by new construction, but also by routine maintenance and service of the buildings and grounds, specifically, access and parking for service and delivery vehicles. Last fall, the Department of Parking and Transportation began implementing a plan to address these issues and provides designated parking that keeps service vehicles off the lawn and out from under tree drip lines. Drip lines, the areas located under the outer circumference of the tree branches, is where the tiny rootlets are located that take up water for the tree. The plan helps keep areas around buildings tidy, provides order throughout campus, and helps us enforce illegal parking.

Students also play a role in the protection of trees. “Desire paths,” also referred to as “Cow Paths,” are shortcuts between two points where foot traffic has destroyed the surface vegetation leaving only compacted dirt paths. These paths, often within the dripline of trees, prevent the flow of air and water to tree roots. Their removal has become a high priority of President Herbst and the Campus Appearance Committee. We are working steadily to remove such pathways within the campus core, and, where appropriate, are replacing them with concrete sidewalks. Where paving over such paths is impractical, we have installed post and chain fencing. And, of course, there are a number of areas on campus where we hope students will walk on the grass, specifically the Quads intended for special events and play.

Restoration and maintenance of existing trees occurs through close collaboration with the Facilities department. Five years ago the University made a commitment to our mature tree canopy and hired four staff arborists. Their work promoting tree health includes branch and root pruning to allow for building maintenance or construction, air spading of the soil to decompact the area within the drip line of trees, fertilizer and pesticide injections into the soil or trunk of the tree to control decline due to diseases, pests, or poor fertility, and mulching to protect young trees from mower
UConn’s Arboretum Committee
Helping to Protect, Promote, and Manage the Trees and Shrubs on UConn’s Campus

Greg Anderson and Mark Brand

The Arboretum Committee (AC) was formed in the mid-1980s as a response to the need for advocacy for the impressive, both in terms of size and diversity, tree and shrub growth on the Storrs campus. The concept was first advocated by an informal committee co-managed by David Schroeder, Head, Natural Resources Management and Engineering, and Greg Anderson, Department Head, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. The advisory committee eventually became official and was recognized by the administration. It was small in the beginning, including the founders as well as: former Landscape staff Patricia Zuger-Meisterling and Bryan Krystof, Professors Edward Corbett, Charles Henry, Kent Holsinger, John Sliander, and staff members Bill Cullina, Elna DeCarli, Paula Henderson, Leslie Mehrhoff, and M.J. Spring. For nearly the past decade the AC has been directed by Mark Brand and Greg Anderson, with broad membership of students, staff, and faculty. The Mission of the AC is: to protect, promote, catalogue and manage the most spectacular natural resources on the Storrs campus, the trees and shrubs.

In general, the Arboretum Committee considers the woody resources on the Storrs campus to be one of its chief attributes, and advocates for the protection of existing trees and shrubs. In particular, the Committee recommends against cutting of any trees or shrubs, especially mature specimens, without first engaging in long and serious consideration. There will be instances where trimming or removal is necessary to correct storm damage, ageing, or construction-without-other-alternatives; the AC works hard to very carefully and thoughtfully consider its recommendations in these cases. Mature specimens, of trees in particular, are “major” assets, both in the fiscal sense and in the context of campus attractiveness. Like changes to buildings, the Committee argues that we need to consider any alternation of these plant major assets very carefully as well. Such consideration may be even more important in the case of mature trees (and some shrubs) than it is for buildings. One can build, or rebuild portions of building. The same does not apply to a tree that is 50-100 years old: such a specimen simply cannot be replaced. The AC advocates for trimming and “repair” to trees, and supports removal only as a last resort.

The Arboretum Committee has produced several versions of a guide to the 40-50 most notable trees on the Storrs campus, the most recent version called the “Campus Tree Touring Guide,” which is available on the AC web site. The web site also includes a link to the “Specimen Trees on Campus” at the UConn Law School. The AC worked with other faculty (particularly Tom Meyer from the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment), students and staff (particularly, Eileen McHugh from the Office of University Planning; see facing page.) to produce a comprehensive list and geo-referenced map of the trees and shrubs in the heart of the Storrs campus. The compendium includes over 3,600 trees/shrubs representing more than 300 species and 90 genera. This list, and the “blue tags” on the plants has been particularly useful in coordinating trimming, and other maintenance, and in keeping track of the inventory. Ms. McHugh compiled a map of the trees “greater than 24 inches in diameter,” which is also included on the AC web site. In the late 80s/early 90s, the AC was sanctioned by a national body accrediting arborea. For more detail, go to: http://www.ucconnarboretum.uconn.edu/.

Greg Anderson, Professor Emeritus, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Mark Brand, Professor of Horticulture; co-chairs, UConn Arboretum Committee.

Tree Warden
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or string trimmer injury. Tree restoration efforts have recently occurred around the mature trees at Castleman, along the Busway, and as part of the project that restored the former quad following the removal of the trailers between the Benton Museum and the William Hall building.

When trees cannot be protected, we might recommend transplanting trees as part of the project cost. The new Oak Hall sits on an area which was formerly a collection of rare conifers developed by the late conifer expert Professor of Plant Science Sidney Waxman. Last spring seven trees were moved to new locations on campus as part of the development of Oak Hall. This includes a Varied Directions Weeping Larch (Larix decidua ‘Varied Directions’) on the slope connecting the UConn Foundation and Tasker Admissions building.

If we are out of options for protection and trees need to be removed, we suggest new plantings in consultation with the Arboretum Committee. To accommodate the newly completed Widmer Wing to Storrs Hall, two mature Hackberry trees were removed. This fall, four new Hackberries (Celtis occidentalis) were planted to replace those removed and to keep the hackberry, which is unusual in this part of the country, represented on campus.

And finally we plant new trees. A student inspired tree planting on Earth Day this year added a Sugar Maple along the Busway. Other new plantings are associated with site improvement projects like the Student Union’s Terrace Project completed last fall, the Hillside Road Safety Improvements Project nearing completion this fall, and coming later this year and next spring, the restoration of the Sundial Plaza and pedestrian safety improvements to the Library Quad.

Eileen McHugh, University Landscape Architect and University Tree Warden.

“Connecticut Trees”
Works by Bryan Nash Gill and City Bench
As part of the opening reception, Mark Brand, Professor, Horticulture, Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, and Gregory Anderson, Professor Emeritus, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, co-chairs of the University’s Arboretum Committee, will lead a tour of notable trees on campus, starting at Homer Babbidge Library, on Sunday, Oct. 28 from 1 – 2 p.m.

“Katie’s Big Day”
Archival Collection of Children’s Book Author and Illustrator Katie Davis
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center Gallery

“The View from the University for Peace”
Traveling Exhibit
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center West Corridor