

# UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

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April/May 2009

## Book Sale Raises Nearly \$3,000 for Leisure Reading Collection

The Libraries semi-annual Book Sale, held on April 29, brought smiles to the faces of hundreds of campus bibliophiles, and, in the process, raised nearly \$3,000 to benefit the Abbie Jean Quick Leisure Reading Collection.

"The book sale went off without a hitch. It generated incalculable amounts of community goodwill," said Richard Bleiler, who headed a small but dedicated group of library staff members, who arranged the sale. "That this event left so many people excited and smiling, and that there were no problems whatsoever, is due entirely to the good people who worked so long and hard to make the 2009 book sale a reality."

Several thousand books donated by members of the campus community and friends of the library were sold during the six-hour event. Books remaining will be given to *Better World Books*, an organization that collects and sells books online to fund literacy initiatives worldwide.

Books sold included fiction, poetry, prose, spirituality, biography, philosophy, social sciences, and history. A number of VHS videocassettes, LPs, and maps were also sold.



Kentwood D. Wells, right, professor in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, was among the hundreds of campus bibliophiles who attended the Libraries' Book Sale on April 29. Andrew Christie, far right, a history major, was delighted with his find of oversized maps of China and the British Isles.



## Can Libraries and Google Coexist?

### *Noted Library Prognosticator Issues a Qualified "Yes"*

Lana Babij and Suzanne Zack

David W. Lewis has seen the future of libraries and the future reads "free."

On March 10, Lewis, a respected library prognosticator, former head of the Reference and Information Services at Homer Babbidge Library, and now dean of the University Library, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, put the future of libraries in context with a presentation titled "Libraries in the Age of Google, or Not..." delivered at a public forum sponsored by the UConn Libraries in Konover Auditorium at the Dodd Research Center.

Google and other successful online information enterprises, he observed, have demonstrated that the web can offer instant access, limitless distribution, and user interaction capabilities at very low cost to the provider. People who use these freely available services can now do more things with both data and creative



David W. Lewis

content in ways that are easier, faster, and cheaper – and in the opinion of many, with "good enough" results.

Google and YouTube's relatively non-selective, non-organized information and creative content, which is either found or donated and ruled by keyword and users' categorization, has only enhanced their popularity.

Can our venerable libraries that have painstakingly selected, organized, and paid dearly for their contents, survive in their midst? For academic libraries, Lewis contends the answer is

"yes," but they must first tackle and accomplish two major tasks.

"A big part of our job in the next decade will be to make scholarly information free," he said.

This may seem paradoxical. However, given that most information is now being digitized, and that digitization allows distribution to effectively be free, then the prohibitive rates charged by publishers on the

one hand, and existing copyright laws on the other, create artificial scarcity and lost opportunity for knowledge building. The new paradigm in Lewis's words is "the right to distribute, not to exclude."

Lewis says librarians must work with faculty to break publishers' monopoly on premium scholarship. The infrastructure that is developing to accomplish this includes institutional repositories, such as UConn's DigitalCommons@UConn.edu. Also, the NIH mandate requiring free access to government sponsored research, as well as directives at Harvard (and now MIT), provide initial guidelines and structures for sharing institutionally created knowledge. In some disciplines, online communities of shared research already exist. However, much more needs to be done to make the "open scholarly commons," as Lewis calls them, well governed, integrated with the faculty promotion process, and a valued asset to scholars everywhere.

As scholarly information becomes more freely accessible, Lewis urges libraries to begin repositioning

*Continued on page 4*

## Academic Year 2008/2009: Doing Better With Less

Brinley Franklin, Vice Provost  
University of Connecticut Libraries



Challenging financial times force difficult choices. Economic downturns are an opportunity to reassess how a library is performing and whether the limited resources at its disposal are being applied in the best possible way.

Academic year 2008/2009 was a fiscal challenge. Over the course of the year, Connecticut's governor reduced the University of Connecticut's block grant allocation by 5 percent and instituted other cost saving measures. The Libraries' budget was reduced by hundreds of thousands of dollars and vacant positions could not be refilled. We ended the year with 12 percent less filled positions, down 14 positions from our starting staff level of 116.

### Despite these resource challenges:

- We had a record number of people in Babbidge Library during final exams;
- Interlibrary loan requests from UConn faculty and students increased by 32 percent;
- For the second consecutive year, the UConn Libraries contributed 500,000 pages of digitized material to the Open Content Alliance;
- The Thomas J. Dodd Research Center won a distinguished service award from the Society of American Archivists;
- Library services delivered through HuskyCT, the University's course management system, were expanded;
- The Libraries offered streaming video for the first time to select courses; and
- A project team worked to implement WorldCat Local and WorldCat Navigator in conjunction with many of the other 19 libraries in the Boston Library Consortium.

The Libraries accomplishes these tasks by setting priorities and following through on them. Each year, we undertake a few carefully selected projects that move us closer to achieving our strategic plan. This year, we updated our strategic plan and reorganized the Libraries from seven functional areas into five program areas. Starting this summer, the five program areas, which generally correspond to the University's five major academic plan goals, will begin to carry out the Libraries' new strategic plan that was completed in late 2009.

Over the next several years, we will re-allocate as many staff as possible to directly serve users. Already this year, we have increased the number of library staff directly involved in undergraduate services and our strategic plan calls for adding three more library staff to our Undergraduate Education Team. When we are able to fill positions again we will also concentrate on recruiting research services librarians to best serve the academic programs UConn is emphasizing as part of its academic plan.

It has been a challenging year, but our staff members have risen to the occasion. With technological advances and hard work, we will, in fact, do better with less.

## MAGIC 2.0: Interactive, Collaborative, and User Friendly

Michael Howser

In response to the prediction that "geo-everything" will be the emerging trend in technology within learning-focused environments, the University of Connecticut Libraries Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC) is developing tools, resources, and services to meet this need.

The forecast, made in the *2009 Horizon Report*, co-published by the New Media Consortium and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative, is closely monitored by campus leaders and technology practitioners.

With a majority of MAGIC's users utilizing our website (<http://magic.lib.uconn.edu>) to access historical maps, geospatial data, and additional resources, a series of Web 2.0 tools have been added to help users more readily locate information. The historical map collection has been transformed by uploading copies of historical maps to the image and video hosting website, Flickr (<http://flickr.com>), which significantly improves the ability to browse and search our historical map collection. By using Flickr, we have been able to implement the cooliris 3D wall, which provides users with a preview of all MAGIC's maps from Flickr and allows visual searching of maps by title.

The latest version of our online mapping service, MAGIC 2.0 Online Maps, enables a user to develop custom maps with historic, topographic, geologic, and/or aerial photography data for any location within Connecticut. Thanks to the efforts of Benjamin Spaulding, a Geography graduate student working at MAGIC, this site continues to be enhanced with additional data and capabilities. In March 2009, MAGIC released a Web Map Service (WMS) which enables users of GIS software (e.g. ESRI's ArcGIS) to interact with geospatial data provided by MAGIC

directly in their own GIS software, without any additional plug-ins. This WMS will enable users to utilize data and maps provided by MAGIC within their own research and additional data can be added by the user within their GIS software.

With the current trend in geographic data of developing "mash-ups," or customized maps with data from various sources, the WMS is enabling MAGIC to develop more user-friendly and interactive options for viewing maps within our collection. Using Google Maps, historical maps, and other data sources provided by MAGIC can be added to a custom map and users will be able to create their own mash-ups with just a few easy steps. To further enhance the capabilities of developing mash-ups for research, presentations, videos, websites and more a new collaborative workstation is being added to the Map Reading Room on level 4 of the Homer Babbidge Library as the first phase of developing a "GeoCommons." The GeoCommons will include a 46-inch display screen and a collaborative workstation with web design, video editing, and productivity software to help users develop projects which incorporate maps and/or geospatial data.

With "geo-everything" being the emerging trend in technology, MAGIC is utilizing the numerous scanned maps from past and current digitization projects to foster creativity and support the research needs of our users. The MAGIC website will be adding new tools and resources over the following months as we continue our goal of "Digitizing the Past to Empower 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research."

Michael Howser, Undergraduate Education/  
GIS Librarian



# Shining a Light on Agriculture in Connecticut for Three Decades

## Alexander R. Gavitt Jr.

Suzanne Zack

For Alexander R. “Bud” Gavitt Jr., agriculture and communications are indivisible passions. Gavitt spent more than three decades immersed in both as a writer and editor in UConn’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR), where he promoted the college’s public service, research, and educational activities.

Gavitt recently donated copies of his body of work to the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, along with a gift of \$10,000 to support the processing of the materials, which will provide researchers with insight into the evolution of the college and agribusiness in the state since 1961.

Although officially retired for 17 years, the Lebanon resident still stays abreast of new developments in the field, and is conversant on topics ranging from the South’s current dominance as the country’s poultry and egg producer (Windham county once ranked 15<sup>th</sup>), to sustainable versus organic farming practices, to ways in which local farms are diversifying to stay economically viable.

He has continued to share his knowledge as a freelance publisher, writer, editor, teacher and photographer producing such publications as *The Real Tree Line*, a quarterly magazine for the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association, and *Drop in the Bucket*, a newsletter for the Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut.

His enduring affection for all things agricultural started when he was a child. As an eight-year-old, he

and his family moved into an old farmhouse in Westerly, RI — a move that introduced him to vegetable gardening. When he was 12, he tried his hand raising chickens through a poultry project sponsored by 4-H. He purchased 25 day-old chicks, raised them to maturity, and developed a successful egg route, delivering 10 – 20 dozen of eggs to local residents every Friday night.

“I don’t know why I had an affinity toward chickens, but I did,” he says.

When he was 14, he attended a 4-H camp at what was then Rhode Island State College, now the University of Rhode Island, which helped him to not only expand his knowledge, but his interest in furthering his education. He later enrolled at the college and earned a bachelor’s degree in general agriculture.

With his interest growing, he sought to inform others of agriculture’s benefits and as part of his 4-H activities, appeared on a local radio station sharing farm-related news with listeners. He also produced a twice monthly column for the local daily newspaper, and three other

weekly papers in the area.

At the age of 15, he was named Rhode Island’s 4-H Poultry Boy winner, an honor which brought him to the organization’s National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. A year later, he also won a \$300 college scholarship from the noted performer Gene Autry, known as “The Singing Cowboy.” While in the Windy City, Gavitt appeared on Autry’s radio program and recounted his activities within the organization. “It was pretty heady stuff,” the soft-spoken Gavitt allows.

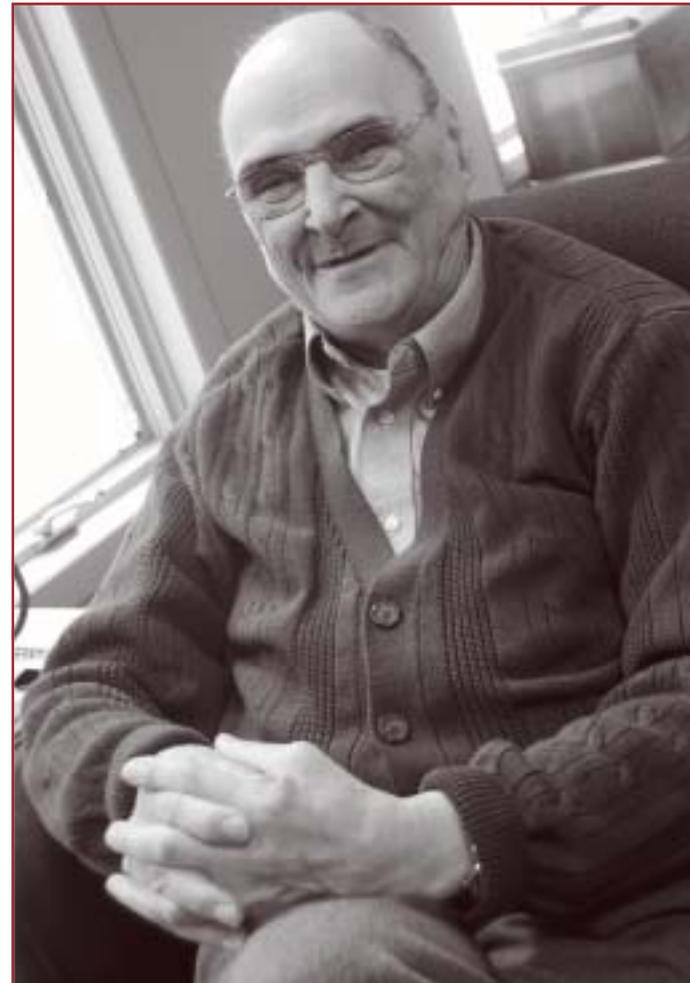
After graduating from the University of Rhode Island, he began his editorial career there as assistant agricultural writer/editor in 1957, producing *Rhode Island Agriculture*. Four years later, he joined UConn as agricultural writer/editor and served in that capacity for nearly 31 years, writing news and feature stories on agricultural, natural resources, environmental and nutritional sciences.

Gavitt’s passion for agriculture extends well beyond his own writing. In addition to his editorial duties, he taught news and feature writing to student interns from the Departments of English and Animal Science for 12 years and established CANR’s Gavitt Scholarship Grant for students interested in communications and agriculture.

His interest in UConn seems infectious. His daughter, Susan, managed the Dairy Bar for many years, and another daughter, Cheryl Bertora, works in Athletics. His son Stephen lives in Willimantic and works for a lawn care business.

Among the honors that have been accorded him are the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award

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from Gamma Sigma Delta, agriculture’s honor society, the Communication Excellence in Agriculture (ACE) Award of Excellence in Writing, and ACE Pioneer Award, several Northeast Farm Communicators Association writing awards, and the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association Merit Award, which marked the first time a non-grower ever received the organization’s highest award.

CANR’s Director of Public Relations and Marketing Sara Putnam worked with Gavitt following his retirement when he returned to the college, at the request of former Dean Kirklyn Kerr, to start a new general interest journal for the college.

“Bud has been very generous with his advice, suggestions, and mentoring as well as his resources to the college and the University, as evidenced by this gift. He wants to share whatever he has; that’s Bud Gavitt to me.”

Nancy Bull, CANR’s Associate Dean for Outreach Education and Public Service and currently Interim Vice Provost, Academic Administration, lauds Gavitt’s professionalism and editing skills, which she experienced when they worked together on a history of 4-H for the organization’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary several years ago.

“UConn allowed Bud to translate his passion for communications into the subject matter of agriculture,” Bull observes.

Of his long career, Gavitt simply says, “The writing was a challenge and I like challenges. I have no regrets. I enjoyed what I did and I did everything I wanted to do.”

*Suzanne Zack, Marketing & Communications Specialist.*



## New Guide Books and Maps to Aid Students Who Study Abroad

The University of Connecticut Libraries' Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC) collaborated with the Office of Study Abroad Programs to develop a collection of "Rough Guides" travel guides and maps to assist students with exploring areas of current focus. The Rough Guides were selected because they provide students with detailed information on cultural events, museums, attractions, including a variety of maps designed to help them prepare for their study abroad experience.

This collection has been developed to support the University's Academic Plan's goal to expand undergraduate student participation in study abroad program and is focused on cities and countries currently included within the Study Abroad program. In the coming months, more resources will become available as MAGIC adds more travel guides and maps to this collection, and creates easier methods in which to locate and explore these materials.

For a current listing of study abroad travel guides and maps visit: [lib.uconn.edu](http://lib.uconn.edu) and search HOMER, the Libraries Catalog for "UConn Study Abroad Map Collection."



## Laptop Loan Program a Resounding Success



Zachary Colombo, a sophomore, and Sabrina Jara, a senior, examine the new laptops available for loan on Level 4 of Babbidge Library.

The laptop computer loan program started in mid-March at Homer Babbidge Library has been enthusiastically embraced by students. To date, students have borrowed the 10 laptops available for loan 1,070 times.

Under the program, students, as well as other members of the campus community, may borrow a laptop and use it for a maximum of three hours anywhere within the library.

***The laptop computer loan program started in mid-March at Homer Babbidge Library has been enthusiastically embraced by students.***

## Libraries and Google (Continued from page 1)



Terry Plum, left, Assistant Dean, Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science, a former staff member at the UConn Libraries, visits with David Lewis, center, and Vice Provost for UConn's Libraries Brinley Franklin prior to the program.

their resources and expertise by imbedding them into successful resources that faculty and students already use. For example, if Google is partnering with library proprietary offerings to add value to their own search platform, how can libraries co-opt for their own added value? And by observing their customers as they seek, evaluate, manage, and manipulate their information, libraries can focus on those needs they are more uniquely positioned to meet than a commercial enterprise.

"The customer will increasingly be the creator, not the consumer of knowledge," Lewis asserts; therefore, library budgets should be "used to support the creation of knowledge, which is then given away, rather than just to purchase content." We should be digitizing and making accessible what is unique to our institutions, whether already in special collections or new content.

"If your library is what it owns, it better own unique stuff," he said. And its corollary: "If your library is what

it does, it had better be doing what is 'better than free.'"

He pointed to the thoughts of Kevin Kelly, former executive editor of *Wired* magazine, in a "better than free" post on Kelly's website, indicating qualities of information that people value over cost, [http://www.kk.org/thetechnium/archives/2008/01/better\\_than\\_fre.php](http://www.kk.org/thetechnium/archives/2008/01/better_than_fre.php), and suggested that interpretation, authenticity, and accessibility are uniquely suited to libraries' abilities.

What made Lewis's presentation particularly meaningful to the audience, which was largely comprised of representatives from academic libraries, was his ability to draw from current observations and concepts that were not only provocative, but relevant and viable.

Being at the cusp of a revolutionary period is not a comfortable phase for an existing institution.

The program's Apple iBook laptop computers were acquired by the Neag School of Education through a grant five years ago and donated to Babbidge Library.

Distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, the computers feature Internet access and the full Microsoft Office suite. Users may borrow them as they do other materials in Course Reserves at the iDesk on Babbidge Library's Plaza Level.

The program was started in response to student interest in having access to computers in the library's designated quiet areas on Level 4 and Level A, as well as in other places in the building that lack public computers.

Libraries must still tend to the old ways while trying to discern the best path into an uncharted future, Lewis said.

He identified key features of the terrain libraries are now traversing and the theories that will guide the decisions they will need to make in the future.

"This will be difficult, but exciting work," he added.

For more information about Lewis and his theories, see his article in *College & Research Libraries*, "A Strategy for Academic Libraries in the First Quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," <http://idea.iupui.edu/dspace/handle/1805/1592>.

Lana Babij, Search Librarian,  
Document Delivery/  
Interlibrary Loan.



Suzanne Zaak, Marketing &  
Communications Specialist.

# In Memory of Xiangzhong “Jerry” Yang (1959-2009)

Jie Xu

I came to UConn as a graduate student in the summer of 1997. At that time, my professor and adviser, Dr. Xiangzhong “Jerry” Yang, was a new associate professor and head of the University’s Biotechnology Center’s Transgenic Animal Facility, who had arrived in Storrs the year before me. The year 1997 was a big year in biology. That year, scientists in Scotland reported the birth of the first cloned mammal, Dolly, the sheep. That same year, Jerry, then only 38, was diagnosed with cancer.

I still remember him calling me to his office and asking me how many courses I had registered for that semester. When I told him, “Three,” his response was, “Don’t take that many; don’t work too hard.” That was one of the few times that I did not listen to my professor. I took three classes that semester. Soon after recovering from the shock of his diagnosis, he devoted himself to his research, achieving his most productive 12 years as a scientist. He was working too hard.

In 1998, one year after the Dolly report, the Yang laboratory produced the first cloned male animals in the world, three Japanese black cattle, in concert with researchers in Japan. Four years later, Jerry led the team and re-cloned the first male clones, the first clones of clones in the world.

In 1999, four Holstein clones, Amy and her sisters, were born here in Storrs. They were the first animals that were cloned from skin fibroblast cells. In the first few years of animal cloning, many researchers and the public wondered whether the clones would inherit the age of the “original” animal, and be born “old,” since they were produced from an aged cell. The ends of the chromosomes, or telomeres, serve as a molecular clock inside mammalian cells and shorten as an animal ages. The Yang team studied the UConn clones and found that the telomeres in the clones were similar to those of a newborn. This

finding not only alleviated concerns about premature aging of clones, but, more importantly, pointed to a new path to rejuvenate our aged cells. We now are able to take an aged cell’s nucleus, implant it into another cell, and turn the genetic material back to its youthful stage. That year (2000), several other groups found similar results. The finding that clones do not prematurely age was selected as one of the “Top 10 Breakthroughs in the Year 2000” by the international journal *Science*.

I graduated in 2002. The Yang lab continued what would become its legacy in this exciting field of animal

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Xiangzhong “Jerry” Yang, then associate professor and founder of UConn’s Center for Regenerative Biology’s Transgenic Animal Facility, front, poses with “Amy” the calf at the Kellogg Dairy Barn in 1999. The calf, the second cloned animal in the world, brought Yang worldwide acclaim. In the back row from the left are: John W. Riesen, professor of Animal Science, Arnie Nieminen, farm manager, Yunping Dai, research specialist, Maneesh Taneja, research Associate, both of UConn’s Transgenic Animal Facility.

cloning. The lab first reported abnormal X chromosome inactivation patterns in clones, first reported production of double transgenic pigs by nuclear transfer, first demonstrated that a fully differentiated cell type could lead to a healthy clone, and many other firsts.

What touched me most are not these achievements. It is how these achievements were made. Jerry had to have seven major surgeries from 1997 on. He was constantly on chemo and radiation therapies. Yet he kept working more than 10 hours a day, until the last few years when his health stopped him. He told me, “Appreciate what you have.” That’s exactly what Jerry did. He appreciated every minute he had in this world. In his last e-mails to friends, he wrote, “I’m happy that I am still alive. Many people do deduction to their lives, as everyone eventually will die. But I do addition. Each day is a plus to me.”

His spirit greatly influenced and inspired me. To many of us, he is a symbol to follow: his professionalism, determination, dedication, internal strength, and personal integrity. He is



the symbol of a fearless fighter, knowing that his cancer would end his life early, but trying until the very end of his life to keep his work going.

In his last several years, Jerry worked, in the hardest way possible, to advance stem cell technologies in the hope of finding cures not only for himself, but for many others. He tirelessly advocated for human embryonic stem cell research because he knew that it promised new cures for a host of debilitating and deadly diseases. But Jerry did not live long enough to see his dream realized: the ability to clone stem cells to match an individual and cure the individual’s disease, whether the disease results from damage to spinal cord or brain neurons, a damaged pancreas, a heart attack, cancer, or any of the myriad diseases in which damaged cells could be replaced with matching stem cells. He left us on Feb. 5 at the age of 49.

On the day that the governor of Connecticut signed the Stem Cell Research Bill in 2005, which earmarked \$100 million for stem cell research, there was a ceremony at the UConn Health Center. Afterwards, Jerry wrapped his arms around a little girl who suffered from juvenile diabetes and told her, “We will find a cure for you now.”

And we will.

*Jie Xu earned his Ph.D. from UConn’s Department of Animal Science in 2002. He is currently Senior Research Scientist at Evergen Biotechnologies, Inc., a biotech company that provides quality animal embryo and transgenic products and services.*



Musicians, including Yang’s son, Andrew, second from right, perform at a memorial service for him at UConn on Feb. 20.

## Staff Service Anniversaries

### 10 Years



Kate Fuller



Jan Heckman



Jean Nelson



Nancy Romanello



Tracey Rudnick

### 20 Years



David Avery



William Uricchio

### 35 Years



Mary Briggs

## UNICO Gives Torrington Campus Library \$6,028

At the district History Day competition on April 4, representatives of UNICO's Torrington Chapter presented UConn's campus with a check for \$6,028. The funds will be used to purchase books, DVDs, and other resources about wars from World War I to the present for the Julia Brooker Thompson Library. The gift, which was made in honor of the veterans who served in the wars, will assure that the wars' history will be readily accessible to libraries, teachers, and students throughout Litchfield County and to all libraries by Interlibrary Loan.

Several UNICO members and officers attended the check presentation including: front row, left to right: Joseph Adorno; Michael Menard, Director, UConn Torrington Campus; Ralph Sabia; John Ciesco, UNICO First Vice President; William Mascetti, UNICO President; Patti Mascetti; UNICO Secretary. Back row: Raymond Mascetti, UNICO Education Committee; Robert Forbes, Assistant Professor of History, UConn Torrington Campus.

Sabia, a World War II veteran, led a committee of 19 who contributed to the gift. UNICO is an Italian American Service Club that seeks to provide fellowship among its members and to perform charitable, educational, and patriotic deeds for their fellow citizens, their communities and their country. The Torrington Chapter is the second oldest and one of the largest chapters in the nation.



## Fresh, Curious, and Unusual Items Featured in Archives' New Blog

Those interested in staying informed of the Dodd Research Center's latest acquisitions, or seeing its unique visual and textual documents and digital collections, need only visit their new blog "Fresh Pickin's" found at <http://doddcenter.wordpress.com/>.

Kristin Eshelman, curator of the Multimedia Collections notes, "There are so many interesting and unique things we

come across every day in our work that we think would be of interest to people. This is a great way for us to get the word out."

Blogging has become a popular and efficient way of keeping people informed, varying from personal blogs to professional business blogs. In addition to highlighting gems in the Dodd Center's collections, the blog will also publicize lectures, special events, and make other announcements.



Orchards, n.d., Jerauld A. Manter Photograph Collection, Archives & Special Collections, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

### 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 UConn Foundation and send with this form to: Linda Perrone, Director of Library External Relations, Babbidge Library, 369 Fairfield Way, Unit 2005-A, Storrs, CT 06269-2005.

## Anne "Nancy" Frueh

Anne "Nancy" (Torrey) Frueh of Hamden, a volunteer in the University Libraries preservation program and active member of the Friends of the University Libraries, died on April 28, 2009 at the age of 88.

Jan Merrill-Oldham, former preservation librarian at the UConn Libraries, who is now at Harvard University, recalled meeting her when Frueh was a book repair assistant at Mansfield Public Library interested in learning more about proper technique.

"Nancy had a quick wit and sparkling intelligence that made her absolutely irresistible,"

Merrill-Oldham recalls. "Her standards were high and her writing skills perfection. It was a great kindness that she extended to the Library for several years, arriving at our door each week to bind pamphlet after pamphlet—her sewing holes always equidistant and the cream-colored linen thread that we used, taut and tightly knotted."

"To know her was to understand what it means to live a rich, well-balanced, ethical life. Nancy drew enduring strength from the joy that is the domain of those who recognize that the deepest valleys are sometimes accompanied by the loftiest of hills. I could have asked for no better role model."



## 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion of Class of 1959 Set for June

The Class of 1959 50th reunion celebration will take place on June 5th and 6th at UConn's main campus in Storrs. Given the significance of the occasion, the class is raising funds for two special projects: the Class of 1959 Learning Commons Fund in Homer Babbidge Library, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Alumni Scholarship Fund in UConn's Alumni Association.

The Chair of the Class of 1959 Leadership Gift Committee includes Gerry Reynolds of Narragansett, RI, Rex Klopfenstein of Fairfax, VA, Lee Langston of Manchester, CT, and Joe Pepin of Danbury, CT.

The Class of 1959 Learning Commons Fund will support a new integrated learning space in Babbidge Library that brings together all the tools

and support services that enable students to complete their academic work assignments. The Learning Commons features computer work stations, printers and scanners, research databases, academic software, collaborative work spaces, social areas, and tutoring assistance.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Alumni Scholarship Fund will be the first scholarship of its kind to provide monetary support to all categories of UConn students. Keeping the criteria general will enable the University to assist undergraduate, graduate, and prospective students on both a need or merit basis. Additionally, it will allow UConn the option to provide orientation or study abroad scholarships as appropriate.

The class goal is to raise \$100,000, with \$50,000 funding each special class project.

## New Oral History Collection Documents Recent Immigrants to Waterbury

Betsy Pittman and Ruth Glasser

A new collection of oral histories done by students in two UConn history classes, which document recent immigrants to Waterbury and nearby towns, has been added to the Archives & Special Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

The collection is based primarily on the work of students in Dr. Ruth Glasser's history seminars, "Immigrants and the Shaping of American History," and "History of Latinos in the United States." Glasser has been teaching these classes since the spring of 2002, so the collection is the accumulation of several years and will continue to grow into the foreseeable future. Most of the classes were taught at the Waterbury campus; one was taught at the Greater Hartford campus.

Each semester that one of these seminars is taught, Glasser trains students in oral history interviewing techniques. The students work together to formulate questions, practice interviewing with each other, and then go out into the field singly or in pairs to do their interviews. At first, the practice was to have each single student or pair interview two people in two separate interviews. Later, Glasser decided that it was preferable to have students do an initial interview with one person, go over it privately with the instructor or publicly with the class to see what might be missing, and then go back and fill in the gaps in a second interview. Interviewing is a skill that must be learned by doing, so this latter approach has proved to yield richer and more in-depth interviews.

The profile of the collection is a varied one, but it does follow certain patterns. Most interviewees were from either Waterbury or nearby towns. Most were from more recent, post-1965 immigrant groups, although some were children of older immigrant or migrant groups, the latter including African Americans from the U.S. South and Puerto Ricans. As might be expected,

many of the interviews done were with Latin Americans and Latinos. The range of countries represented within this group is broad: Dominicans are most

numerous, but there are also Peruvians, Colombians, Mexicans, as well as people from Panama, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Brazil, Cuba, Argentina, Chile, and Nicaragua.

Various Caribbean countries are also represented

including: Jamaica, Haiti, St. Kitt's, Barbuda, and Grenada. European countries in the mix are: Albania, (the most predominant, a reflection of a growing Albanian presence in Waterbury), Bosnia, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Russia, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Slovakia, and Scotland. Africa and the Middle East are represented by Cape Verdean, Egyptian, and Iranian informants. So far, the Asian collection is comprised by only one Vietnamese informant, but Glasser hopes to broaden this collection in coming years.

This collection will hopefully aid student and professional scholarly inquiries into immigrant life in the Waterbury area at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup>. They should provide useful information on what people's lives were like back in their homeland, why they decided to leave, what the process of leaving and the process of resettlement have been like. Transcripts of the oral histories are available online at <http://doddcenter.uconn.edu/findaids/watbimmig/MSS20090014.html>, and in the Dodd Research Center Reading Room.

*Betsy Pittman, Interim Director, Dodd Research Center & University Archivist*  
*Ruth Glasser, Lecturer and Coordinator for Urban and Community Studies Program, Waterbury campus.*



## Mortensen Foundation Donates Adaptive Technology Workstation to Trecker Library

The Greater Hartford Campus Trecker Library is the recipient of the generous gift of an adaptive technology workstation from the William and Alice Mortensen Foundation. The workstation, which has been in almost constant use since its installation, has a 20-inch monitor and is equipped with "Jaws," a state-of-the-art software that audibly reads the contents of the screen to the visually impaired, and a special height adjustable table, which accommodates library users in wheelchairs.

In addition to the contribution from the Mortensen Foundation, the library also benefited from the services of the University of Connecticut Foundation. As the primary fundraising vehicle to solicit and administer private gifts and grants which will enhance the University's mission, the Foundation supports UConn's pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, and public service. Additional support was provided by Rick O'Toole, of Library Information Technology Services, who facilitated the selection and ordering of the hardware and software and then did the installation.

Established in 1982, the Mortensen Foundation supports religious, charitable, scientific, literary and educational organizations, especially those that improve the lives of Hartford residents.

## Diversity Website Launched

The UConn Libraries has launched a new website that features information about its ongoing diversity efforts, highlighting programming, publications, policies and other information, <http://www.lib.uconn.edu/Diversity/>.

In addition, the University Libraries has created a student library advisory board at the Storrs campus, which will work with its Diversity Planning Team to ensure that the Libraries are a welcoming space for all.

The UConn Libraries have a new e-mail address for diversity-related questions, concerns, or comments: [lib-diversity@uconn.edu](mailto:lib-diversity@uconn.edu). Please drop us a line and let us know what you think!

## iPod Winner



Carole Dyal, a member of the Libraries' User Team, presents Vishal Barochia, a fifth semester pharmacy major, with an iPod Touch, courtesy of the UConn Coop. Barochia won the device for participating in this year's library user survey.

# What's INSIDE

**Page 2** *Vice Provost for University Libraries recounts the Libraries' accomplishments made in the face of a challenging economy.*

**Page 3** *Veteran writer and editor Alexander Gavitt Jr. from UConn's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources donates his papers to the Dodd Research Center.*

**Page 5** *The late animal cloning pioneer Jerry Yang is remembered by a former graduate student.*

**Page 6** *The Torrington campus library receives a gift from UNICO in honor of veterans.*

**Page 7** *A new oral history collection, done by students in UConn history classes, documents recent immigrants to Waterbury and surrounding towns.*

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# Exhibits May 26 through October 9, 2009

## Something Important Happened Today

*Student Photography on Campus*



Dodd Research Center, West Corridor

## Train Wreck!

*Crashes, Calamities & Catastrophes in Connecticut*



Dodd Research Center Gallery

## Capturing the Stars

*The Astrophotography of Robert Gendler*

**"Aside from scientific understanding, the celestial world is itself worthy of artistic representation and expression," Gendler says. "It is towards these ends, the scientific and the artistic, that I hope this exhibit will reach people, evoking admiration for and a deeper understanding of nature on a grand scale. Enjoy the journey!"**



## New Haven's Garment Workers

*An Elm City Story*



Babbidge Library, Plaza Level, West Alcove

## The University of Connecticut

*In Kodachrome, 1939-1959*



Babbidge Library, Gallery on the Plaza



Babbidge Library, Stevens Gallery

Volume 15, Number 2

April/May 2009

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](mailto:ann.galonska@uconn.edu) or 860-486-6882.

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*This publication is printed and distributed using unrestricted gift monies. The Libraries wishes to acknowledge our friends for their generous support.*