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Remembering Charles Chu by Ashley Hanson

On October 30, 2008, Professor Emeritus Charles Chi-Jung Chu, the Connecticut College “icon,” died at the age of ninety. Many things have been written about Charles Chu. He was a master painter, calligrapher and scholar. He began the Chinese language program at Connecticut College in 1965, officially retiring in 1984. He may have retired from teaching at that point, yet he remained very active in the Charles E. Shain Library. He was often seen happily bringing in books and magazines from his private collection, or carefully carrying a newly acquired painting for the Chu-Griffis Art Collection.

This collection, established by Hughes Griffis and Charles Chu, is housed in the Shain Library. The collection currently includes 217 pieces of Asian art. Charles was its first curator, and he spent a long time building the collection with donations from past students and dear friends.

In 2001, John and Heidi Niblack graciously gave a major gift to support the construction of a room not only to display the wonderful pieces in the Chu-Griffis Collection, but to honor their friend, Professor Emeritus Chu. Agnes Gund (class of 1960) and her husband, Daniel Shapiro, also generously contributed. Today the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room stands as a serene and lovely place to study, view artwork, or attend a gathering. It is a favorite place on campus for many students.

Charles’ legacy can be seen on the walls of Shain Library, on our book and journal shelves, and on many of the longtime staff members’ bulletin boards. Every year at the Chinese New Year, he would bring by copies of his beautiful holiday cards and personally hand them out with smiles and laughter.

On a personal note, some of my favorite times with Charles were spent in the library, as I collected requested books for him to use as inspiration for his upcoming holiday cards. He would literally jump with joy as I handed him books and then open his sketch pad, hold his head, and start sketching. Then he’d tell me to “get back to work!”

continued on page 3
Message from the VP

In a big step for the CTW Consortium, the libraries at Connecticut College, Trinity College, and Wesleyan University have formalized an agreement for a shared collection development program. The pilot project, initiated in January as a part of the CTW/Mellon Collaborative Collection Development Grant ($350,000 over three years), will encourage a more diverse research monographic collection within the CTW libraries and still allow each library to develop its core undergraduate collection. We have dedicated $25,000 of our monographic budget to this effort. As the other colleges have dedicated the same amount, we essentially are adding up to $50,000 worth of materials to each of our collections by agreeing to share the selection and retention of titles that are judged to be too advanced or research-oriented for a core undergraduate collection.

If one of the other two schools has purchased every item another partner wants, that effectively adds $50,000 to their budget. Sweet!

Here’s how it works: if a librarian at Connecticut College decides that a particular item should be in the consortium holdings somewhere, but is not essential to our local core collection, he or she will check the holdings of the other libraries. If neither owns the material, it will be ordered for the Connecticut College collection and a notation made on the record that it is a shared item. If one of our partners already has the item, we will not order it (or if we do, it will come from a separate budget). Any item ordered through this program will not be discarded before offering the other libraries in the consortium an opportunity to take over the physical holding. If Trinity or Wesleyan already owns the items Connecticut College wants, $50,000 is effectively added to our budget. If one of the other two schools has purchased every item another partner wants, that effectively adds $50,000 to their budget. Sweet!

The grant is also supporting in-depth analysis of the three collections to help guide future purchases and develop core collection strengths. But with this pilot program, we’ve begun a new era in the history of the CTW Consortium that genuinely increases its value to our students, faculty and staff.

W. Lee Hisle, Ph.D.
Vice President for Information Services and Librarian of the College
Are you on Facebook? So are we!

If you’re a user of the social networking site Facebook, you may have already noticed that the Charles E. Shain Library now has its own Facebook page. We noticed that many Connecticut College students, faculty, and staff are on Facebook, so we thought we’d offer them another way to access library information. Facebook members can use the page to check for upcoming library events, search the JSTOR and Worldcat databases, or see what kinds of soup are on the menu at the Blue Camel Café. You can find us by searching for “Shain Library” (under Pages) on Facebook, or by following the link from the Libraries and Technology home page at http://www.conncoll.edu/Libraries/. Another page for the Greer Music Library is in the works as well. Check us out in our new online home!

Remembering Charles Chu by Ashley Hanson

Charles Chi-Jung Chu contributed funds, books, newspapers, journals, artwork, and so much more to the Charles E. Shain Library, and he did it all “for the students.” He constantly said, “I want this for the students. I want the students to have this.” He was passionate about having a place for students to experience and learn about Asian culture and art, and he wanted the students at Connecticut College to be able to expand their knowledge with no barriers. We have been extremely fortunate to have had Charles as part of the fabric of the Charles E. Shain Library. He will be sorely missed.

(For more information on the Chu-Griffis Asian Art Collection, see “Chu-Griffis Asian Art Collection Now Online” on page 6.)
My name is May Chinavanichkit, class of 2009, and I am originally from Bangkok, Thailand. I am a Biological Science major and Economics minor here at Connecticut College. On campus, I am actively involved with event planning as a member of the Connecticut College Asian/American Student Association (CCASA) and as a House-fellow of Burdick. Previously, I coordinated with local businesses to bring in food vendors. I have also helped organize and plan for the Diwali Show.

I started working at Shain Library during the summer of 2006. I had the chance to learn many different skills in multiple departments within the library, ranging from customer service and research skills at the Circulation to labeling, organizing, and processing new books and media in Book Prep. It was an advantage to work in both departments because I could see the bigger picture of how the library system operates. Often, when I observe the issues faced by the Circulation Desk staff, I can suggest ways to alter or improve processing techniques to make it easier for the circulation staff and reduce the number of mistakes. With all the changes in library personnel this year, I also realize how important it is for each individual in the workplace to be multifunctional and cross-trained.

In the future, I hope to pursue a career in operations management. Over the past summer, I interned at the Operational Excellence department at Bayer HealthCare in Berkeley, where I worked on team projects to increase efficiency and streamline business processes. I believe that working in the various departments within the library has helped me become a more effective researcher, a better team player, and a more dynamic person in the workforce.

My name is Nadezhda Radeva, but everyone calls me Nadya. I was born and grew up in Bulgaria. I am a senior at Connecticut College and this is my fourth year working for Information Services, more specifically, the Help Desk. I was fortunate to get this job during my first week on campus, and I am happy to have had the opportunity to work for the Help Desk throughout all four years in college.

This job gave me the opportunity not only to learn how to fix software and network issues, clean viruses, or reinstall the operating systems on computers, but also to meet faculty, staff, and students and help them with any computer-related problems they have. Sometimes it is difficult to troubleshoot a computer issue over the phone, but as a Help Desk employee I learned how to visualize the problem, ask relevant questions and suggest ideas on what can be done.

Besides my employment at the Help Desk, I am a double major in Computer Science and Astrophysics, and a member of the Certificate for Arts and Technology center. I spent two summers working at the Center for Astrobiology at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and worked on the analysis of data from the Martian atmosphere. I am interested in scientific animation and biology or astronomy visualization. Working at the Help Desk, I have gained much experience in how computers work, what can go wrong, and how to troubleshoot many of the problems. This has helped me in my computer science classes and in studying computer hardware. After I graduate, I am planning to obtain a Ph.D. in Scientific Visualization and later work for a visualization company. The skills I acquired at the Help Desk will be very useful in my future career in the field of Computer Science, and I have greatly enjoyed working with the amazing IS staff all these years.
Frank X. Werber Chamber Music Collection now available at Greer Music Library

On November 9, 2003, several boxes of scores were delivered to the Greer Music Library, the gift of Frank and Barbara Werber of Essex, Connecticut. The accompanying appraisal indicated that 564 individual scores made up the collection. At first glance, the slightly worn storage boxes seemed somewhat anticlimactic after the appraiser’s glowing report of their contents. The collection was put into a workroom, awaiting the day when projects already in the pipeline would be completed and the sorting of the gift could begin.

Finally, during the summer of 2007, Greer staff began to delve into those boxes — and found wonderful treasures. Music by composers such as Beethoven, Mozart, Schumann, Locatelli, and Bartok emerged, and the majority of titles did not duplicate items already in the Greer collection. Some represented different editions of titles in Greer, thus enabling us to offer performers a choice. Most of the contents of the boxes were in good to pristine condition; some scores needed only careful erasing to restore them to a library-worthy state. And most of the scores could be bound in-house rather than be sent to a commercial binder, affording our summer student employees the opportunity to learn an interesting new skill.* Approximately half of the scores were sorted and processed that first summer, with the remainder held for the summer of 2008. During the fall 2008 semester, the last of the scores arrived on our shelves. Most of the duplicates and worn copies went into the Greer used music sale.

The Werber collection consists mainly of duets and quartets, with some solos, trios, quintets, and sextets. Music featuring the violoncello is prominent, as Frank Werber (who passed away in 2006) was an amateur cellist. Most of the selections include the instrumental parts, making performance of the music possible. The scores in the Werber collection are fully cataloged in Caravan, our online catalog, and integrated into the collection of Greer, shelved by call number. Any library patron with a Connecticut College ID or a valid Conn library card may borrow them, as well as most of our other scores.

How can you tell if a score is part of the Werber gift? Read the gift plate on the inside front cover. The wording was requested by the family, and reflects its desire that these materials will not simply grow dusty in the stacks, but that performers will bring the music to life.

A collection of chamber music scores from Frank Werber, a devoted amateur cellist

“Continue to make beautiful music.”

Text of the gift plate for the Frank X. Werber Chamber Music Collection

*Single-signature scores are hand-sewn into pamphlet binders by trained Greer student assistants. This technique allows the music pages to lie flat when the binder rests on a music stand, an important consideration for performers. If a score consists of two or more signatures, it is sent to a commercial bindery for what is called “music binding,” with the same results.
Chu-Griffis Asian Art Collection Now Online

The late Professor Charles Chu (see article on page 1) would have been delighted to know that the Chu-Griffis Asian Art Collection is now being viewed outside the walls of Shain Library — and, indeed, outside this continent.

A year ago, the Spring 2008 issue of Inside Information announced our three digital image collections newly hosted by ARTstor. One of these three image collections concentrates on Asian art, comprising four distinct collections of 381 paintings, prints, and sculptures reproduced in 420 high-resolution images. The Chu-Griffis Collection forms the core of these four collections. Its 217 Chinese paintings range from the 15th century to the 20th century, and focus on landscapes, flowers, birds, and calligraphy.

Though hosted by ARTstor, those images were accessible only to the Connecticut College community. Our Asian artworks, however, are part of 22 new museum and college collections that ARTstor has now released to its subscribers, a worldwide community of students, scholars, curators, and professors. And these works are not just for looking. You will not find any Do Not Touch signs guarding them. They all may be downloaded for printing or sharing or projecting in class presentations. By the third week of its launch, we had already received a query regarding publication.

You can access ARTstor from any campus computer at http://www.artstor.org. And once you have registered, you can access ARTstor from off-campus too. To retrieve our Asian collection from the one million (!) other images, use the search function and simply enter the word connoll.

For further information about accessing ARTstor, including gaining instructor privileges, contact Mark Braunstein, Visual Resources Librarian, at 439-2729, or email mark.braunstein@conncoll.edu.

Gearing up for taxes: W-2 statements and Financial Aid in Self-Service

At the end of January, Mary Vona of Information Services’ Administrative Information Systems team, Jacqueline Pick of Accounting, Cheryl Miller of Human Resources, and the Payroll office worked together to add a new level of functionality to our Banner Self-Service program. Now any current Connecticut College employee with an active ID in the network directory will have online access to their W-2 statements for 2008. W-2’s from past years, from 2005 onward, are also available to view in Self-Service.

This provides a great advantage to student employees, faculty, and staff who may be studying abroad, on sabbatical, or traveling. As long as you have access to the internet, you can log into Banner Self-Service and see your tax statement from anywhere in the world, on a secure network only available to those with a valid ID in the Connecticut College network directory. (Though the Self-Service site is very secure, please bear in mind that if you are using a public computer, you must log out of Banner Self-Service to ensure that your personal data is not accessible to the next computer user.)

For instructions on how to access your W-2 statement in Banner, Cheryl Miller has created a written guide and a video. Both are available in CamelWeb under “Featured Sites.”

Also, Banner Self-Service for Financial Aid is now live. Currently enrolled students can view current and previous financial aid awards, or the status of their financial aid application. There are also links to assist students with the loan application process. This service will allow for more efficient and timely communication with our students. Special thanks for this incredible achievement go to Mary Vona and Karen Woods.

These added modules in Banner are only two of the great additions to come in the Self-Service area. We hope to see everyone in the Connecticut College community using these new modules, whether at tax time or all year!
DELI Helps Students Learn with Technology

Students in several very different Connecticut College classes are benefiting from the Digital Enhanced Learning Initiative (DELI) program this semester. DELI, established by Information Services and the Center for Teaching and Learning in Fall 2006, provides digital technology, such as cameras and iPods, for students to use in relevant classes. Members of the Instructional Technology and Research Support and Instruction teams work closely with students and faculty, providing technical support and research assistance.

This academic year, DELI has partnered with eight classes. This semester’s DELI courses include Anthropology 380 (Applied Anthropology), taught by Catherine Benoit; English 213B (Bob Dylan), taught by Janet Gezari and Charles Hartman; and Russian 102 (Intensive Elementary Russian), taught by Andrea Lanoux.

Applied Anthropology

As the course syllabus for Anthropology 380 states, “The goal of applied anthropology is to solve contemporary social problems and to initiate changes in the world.” The eight students in this class are studying problems and initiating changes that lie very close to home. The students are using Shain Library as a site for anthropological fieldwork as well as traditional library research. Their class project is an extended ethnographic investigation of how Connecticut College students use the library, a project inspired by a study conducted by an anthropologist at the University of Rochester. Armed with Kodak Zi6 Pocket Video Cameras, which record video, sound, and still images, the students are conducting interviews and creating a record of the space of the library. Their goal is to describe their fellow students’ research processes, and the DELI equipment will help them gather important data. Their work will eventually help the library identify potential improvements to make — a hands-on lesson in the anthropologist’s role in fostering change.

Bob Dylan

Janet Gezari and Charles Hartman first taught their course on the poetic and musical work of Bob Dylan last year. Over the course of the semester, students explore Dylan’s complete career in its social and cultural contexts, from his early recordings in the 1960s through his 21st-century work. This semester, their students are using iPod Touches for the intensive “close listening” that the course demands. Instead of having to stay tethered to their computers while listening to Dylan’s music on electronic reserve, students can now carry the course content in their pockets. The iPods also include internet access in addition to music and video playback. Students can connect to the Connecticut College wireless network and access the course home page, search YouTube for Dylan videos, download and listen to Dylan podcasts, and view transcribed song lyrics online while listening. It’s a fitting way to experience the work of an artist famous for his attention to the interaction between words, music, and performance.

Intensive Elementary Russian

In Andrea Lanoux’s Russian 101-102 course, the students use iPods to enhance their language acquisition skills. The iPods contain audio materials to accompany the textbook, popular songs, stories, podcasts, folktales, newscasts, and music videos, as well as information on Russian history and geography. The students went to Russia on a Traveling Research and Immersion Program (TRIP) in March, using DELI-supplied netbooks to stay connected with the college. You can find their travel blog through the College web site or http://triptorussia2009.blogspot.com.

The iPod kit contains an iPod, protective cover, ear buds, and battery charger.

The digital camera kit contains a camera, case, tripod, battery charger, AV connector, and USB extender cable.
Exhibits and Events

The following public exhibitions and events will take place in Shain Library during the spring semester:

Exhibitions:

“Remembering Charles Chu.” February 8 to April 20. In the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room. In honor of the late Charles Chi-Jung Chu, master painter, calligrapher, scholar and emeritus professor of Chinese, the Department of Art History and Architectural Studies and the Charles E. Shain Library are co-sponsoring a special exhibition of his paintings from the private collections of college faculty, staff and alumni. A coordinating exhibition, “Remembering Charles Chu,” is on display at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum through April 12.

“Paul Taylor and the History of Dance at Connecticut College.” March 23 to April 16. In the display cases on the main floor. This exhibition is a companion to performances by the Paul Taylor Dance Company on campus.

Student-curated exhibition. April 21 to April 30. In the display cases on the main floor.

“Highlights of Our History: Memorable Moments and Events at Connecticut College.” May 1 to August 31. In the display cases on the main floor.

Talks:

“Paul Taylor and Jacob’s Pillow Onscreen: An Illustrated Talk by Suzanne Carbonneau and Norton Owen.” Wednesday, April 1, at 4:00 p.m. in the Chu Room, with a reception to follow.

“Are There Any Limits on the Growth of the Federal Government’s Power?” A talk by John Nugent, Senior Research Analyst and Special Assistant to the President, who will discuss his new book, Safeguarding Federalism: How States Protect Their Interests in National Policymaking. Thursday, April 16, at 4:00 in the Chu Room.