10-1-2013

Inside Information Fall 2013

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Information Services

QUICK STATS

2012-13

Research Instruction sessions
144
up 25% from 2010-11

E-books count
926,114
up 227% from 2010-11

Number of wireless access points
372
up 11% from 2010-11

Moodle course sites supported
593
up 11% from 2010-11

Full-text retrievals from databases
269,787
up 35% from 2010-11

Documents added to Digital Commons
359
up 26% from 2011-12

Plans Proceeding for Major Library Renovation

by Fred Folmer

In summer 2014, Connecticut College will begin renovating Shain Library as part of a multimillion-dollar effort whose goal is to bring the facility more in line with current and future needs for teaching, learning and research.

The College’s Board of Trustees approved the $7.5 million initiative at its May meeting as the final project of the $211 million Campaign for Connecticut College, which ended in June. Construction will begin following the spring 2014 semester and continue for approximately one year, ending in spring/summer 2015.

While the tally for the library-specific renovation is $7.5 million, there will also be an additional $1.2 million in funds dedicated to the construction of the new Academic Resource Center (ARC) on the library’s second floor. The ARC will offer an array of academic services and workshops that complement the research and instruction support offered by the library.

The renovation will involve changes to the building’s exterior and interior, and these updates are intended not only to make the facility more physically attractive and comfortable but also to foster new and emerging forms of research and collaboration. Specifically, the library’s entryway and library plaza—the “moat” that currently surrounds the building—will be transformed to allow more natural light into the building, and to provide more gathering space just outside the library. Inside, the renovated library will provide 100 additional seats (and 200 additional seats if taking the new ARC seating into account) for students to work.

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Message from the VP

The Work Ahead

One year from now...

The Charles E. Shain Library will be closed to the campus while it undergoes a $9 million renovation that will take a year to complete. Finally, after over 15 years of planning, the aging library will get a grand makeover that enhances its functionality dramatically. The walk from Blaustein to Cro will certainly be entertaining, as the old entry façade is replaced with a wall of glass, and the sounds of saws, hammers and trucks fill the air.

Two years from now...

We will have moved back into Shain, which will have substantially more study spaces, many of them improved by the substantial increase in natural light. Students will be discovering a variety of new project development spaces, with new furniture and technology options. The enlarged Digital Scholarship and Curriculum Center will now be a part of the new Technology Commons on the lower level, with views of the amphitheater. All of us will enjoy the convenience of the Blue Camel Café on the main floor, which will be connected to the new outdoor plaza that will sit atop the old moat. Night owls will enjoy the new 24-hour study space, which will be comfortable and well lit. Events in the Charles Chu Room will have a new reception space that doubles as a student lounge. It’s going to be beautiful, modern and bright—with new functionality, new furniture and new spirit. It’s going to be great.

The renovated library is going to be beautiful, modern and bright... with new functionality, new furniture and new spirit.

And this year...

Well, this year, we have a lot of work to do. Staff members from across campus are already planning how to offer services and resources to students and faculty. To start, we have to identify areas that can replace the study and technology spaces in Shain. We’ll be plotting how to relocate Circulation, Reserves and Reference Services for the year. The IT Service Desk will need a temporary new home, as will the Digital Scholarship and Curriculum Center. A system to pull materials housed in Shain and get them to researchers is being devised. We certainly want the Blue Camel Café to serve up tasty coffees and teas to its campus fans next year. The PC Classroom, the Neff Lab and the Staff Training Room will all need new locations. Wherever they are located during the transition year, the open-access workstations in Shain will still need to be convenient to students. Bottom line: as much as possible, our goal is to reduce the inconvenience caused by a year of construction.

As I say, there's a lot of work to do. Keep your eyes on the prize.

W. Lee Hisle, Ph.D.

Vice President for Information Services
and Librarian of the College
New Scanner Enables Digitization of College Newspaper  
by Ben Panciera

Over the summer of 2013, Information Services purchased a new Bookeye 4 overhead scanner, and the new equipment is helping staff in the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives to digitize the College newspaper.

The scanner allows staff to digitize rare, fragile and over-sized material not suited to traditional flatbed scanners. The scanning process is extraordinarily rapid, capturing a high-resolution image from an open book and converting it into a PDF document in as little as 10 seconds.

The first project undertaken using the new scanner is the digitization of the entire run of the campus newspaper, starting with the Connecticut College News (as the campus newspaper was known at its inception). To date, the first quarter-century of the newspaper, which began publishing in 1915, has been digitized, including the occasional satirical issues, The See See Nooze and Coneticut Collitch Catchal. The digitized copies have been uploaded into Digital Commons (http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/ccnews/), where they can be searched or downloaded.

The newspapers provide a wealth of information about the culture, activities, students and faculty in the early decades of the College. There are news reports on weekly lectures, some of them by prominent politicians or authors; sporting events, such as the annual faculty–student soccer games; and the development of College policies and curricula in their infancy. In some years, the first issue of the year provides a complete list of incoming students and their hometowns and academic and extracurricular interests, as well as a list of new faculty, their educational backgrounds and their areas of research. There are extensive reports on annual proms and hops, tips for men coming to campus for social events, and advertisements featuring cigarettes and college football, a sport not played anywhere near New London.

After only a few weeks online, the collection has already been downloaded more than 500 times. Special collections staff will be adding newspapers in the coming months, with the goal of having all newspapers online by the end of the fall 2013 semester.

Trading Spaces: Media Services and the Digital Curriculum Center

This summer Media Services moved to Blaustein 108, while the Digital Curriculum Center (DCC) relocated to the former location of Media Services, on the lower level of the library. The moves facilitate the first steps toward the library renovation program, which will begin in summer 2014. Media Services’ relocation to Blaustein brings these staff, resources and services closer to many classrooms and event locations, and moving the DCC to the library helps consolidate instructional technology staff and services. The DCC, now co-located with the Advanced Technology Lab (ATL), is being renamed the Digital Scholarship and Curriculum Center (DSCC) to reflect the increased services that are planned, given the new location within the library—the center for campus scholarship. Following is the contact information for the two facilities:

Media Services: Blaustein 108; phone: 2693; staffed by Dave Baratko, senior technician; Jeff Gada, media technician; and Shawn McCluskey, weekend and evening media services technician

DCC: Shain lower level; phone: 2093; managed by Mike Dreimiller, digital media specialist
Two Longtime Librarians Bid Farewell To Connecticut College

For the first time in decades, the College's libraries will begin this fall without the full-time services of two longstanding librarians, Jim MacDonald and Mark Braunstein. Here's a look at their service to the College, along with some of their interests and plans.

Mark Braunstein

Mark arrived at Connecticut College in 1987 and went to work for the Art History department as the slide librarian. When Information Technology and the library merged to become Information Services, his position was moved into the new unit. As the focus of his work changed from slides to digital images, his title became visual resources librarian. Mark received his degree in art librarianship in 1978 from the Pratt Institute, and just prior to coming to the College, he was the head of the slide and photograph collections at the Rhode Island School of Design.

A simple professional description of Mark, however, does not give a full picture of who he is. He is a photographer and artist who has authored multiple books, including Radical Vegetarianism: A Dialectic of Diet and Ethic, The Sprout Garden and, most recently, Micro-green Garden: Indoor Grower’s Guide to Gourmet Greens. Mark’s mission as an author—along with his wry sense of humor—are represented well on his Amazon author’s page, where he writes, “During my search for eternal youth, I have written books and articles with the intent to save the world, though now I’m content to save my breath.” Mark's page further articulates the central importance of his respect and care for the Earth. “[W]hile I want to foster happiness in our individual lives,” he writes, “I want more to inspire reverence for the planet upon which our meager lives depend.”

Jim MacDonald

It is to Jim’s credit that when someone in our community finds out that Jim has retired as of July 31, their response is invariably, “He can’t do that!” Jim has been deeply trusted by our faculty and beloved to the students who have worked with him. Fortunately, he will continue to work at the Reference Desk two evenings a week.

Jim’s undergraduate work was at Canisius College in Buffalo, and his graduate work in classics was done at both the University of Minnesota and the University of Texas. He taught classics briefly at Hobart College, but as often happens, he wandered away from academic teaching to library science. After finishing his library degree, he accepted his first job as a reference librarian at Connecticut College's Palmer Library on Aug. 1, 1974, and he never left.

Working here, however, has never been simply a job for Jim. He and his wife Abbey have been very active community members, and they’ve had a particularly deep commitment to working with the film society. They raised their two sons here, always remaining close to the campus where their life had its intellectual center.

And what will he do now, now that he has retired? Anyone who knows Jim can easily guess: Travel! Jim and Abbey will start with a trip to Belgium this fall. But the list of places they wish to go is very long, and a few will be new to them in the upcoming years: Thessaloniki, Budapest and Croatia.

Jim has been a positive, kindly and discreet presence in the library. When asked if he had any regrets, he responded that he doesn’t look at life that way; rather, for Jim life is about appreciating what comes on the paths he chooses. The only thing he said that he wished he’d had the opportunity to do was to live abroad. But the Connecticut College community can be happy that his feet were planted firmly here.
College Gains Access to Lynda.com

Thanks to a generous gift from Diane Y. Williams ’59, all current Connecticut College students, faculty and staff now have access to Lynda.com, an online subscription library that uses high-quality instructional videos to teach the latest software tools and skills. More than 2,000 training videos taught by industry experts on a broad range of subjects are available, including Web design and development, business skills, photography, design, music and video, home computing, and animation. The site provides beginner through advanced-level courses, and new videos are added every week.

You can access the Lynda.com library 24/7 through CamelWeb (available in the Single Sign-on Resources area) or from a mobile device, and watch entire courses or single tutorial videos as you need them. Exercise files let you follow along with the instruction as you learn, and bookmarks help you keep track of what you’d like to watch. Other benefits of the site include closed captioning and searchable, time-coded transcripts.

To learn more, access Lynda.com through CamelWeb, visit the Instructional Technology blog, “Engage” (teachtechconncoll.wordpress.com) or contact the instructional design librarian, Jessica McCullough (jmccull1@conncoll.edu).

CamelWeb Transformation Update

This past spring a team from Information Services and College Relations began an effort to renew CamelWeb, and the group plans to launch the revamped portal in early 2014. The team began its work by collecting valuable input and ideas from the campus community through surveys and town meetings held in the spring. Over the summer, the group continued to work on refining the vast possibilities of campus services, information sources and collaboration tools for inclusion in the portal. Throughout the fall, the team will continue to discuss the content and conduct circular reviews with the campus, and will, it is hoped, come to agreement on the identity, structure and character of the new CamelWeb. The CamelWeb team will craft, shape and design the next-generation CamelWeb, with the anticipated rollout to campus in the early part of the upcoming spring semester. The team is aiming to build a virtual center that enriches the community with information, assistance, collaboration and participation.

Integrated Camel Card and Door Access Control System Planned

Following an extensive and competitive RFP process, Information Services and the Office of Administration have selected Blackboard Transact as the provider for a comprehensive, integrated door-access control and campus card system. The new system, which is scheduled to roll out on campus during spring 2014, will consolidate the campus’s various door access systems (such as Camel Card, used in residence halls) into a single system.

Because of the new system, members of the campus community will only need one card, which will serve multiple purposes. The new system will enable increases in services, improve business process efficiency, and integrate student services and Connecticut College transaction activities into one universal card.

The future universal Camel Card will be a vital part of life at Connecticut College, because the comprehensive system will provide the College community with a vast array of services while delivering round-the-clock access privileges. The result will be significantly improved campus operations and security, along with a smoother overall experience for students, faculty, staff and guests.
New IS Staff Member: Jessica McCullough

I am excited to join Information Services and the Connecticut College community as instructional design librarian. What is an instructional design librarian? I assist faculty in developing research- and technology-based assignments, work with students to develop research strategies and skills, and collaborate to integrate technology into the curriculum. I am grateful to have found a position that marries my interests in libraries, teaching and technology. I hold master’s degrees in library science (University of Michigan) and educational technology (George Washington University), and a bachelor’s degree from Kenyon College (Spanish area studies).

Most recently I worked at Fairfield University as the library’s instruction coordinator, where I worked with faculty to develop a research-skills curriculum for all first-year students. I taught almost 50 library research sessions a year to students of all backgrounds and abilities, from freshmen to doctoral candidates. Before that, I worked at ARTstor, a large image database, where I had the opportunity to visit campuses around the country and to teach faculty and librarians how to use this resource most effectively.

I am excited to begin this academic year and hope to meet many faculty members in the Teaching with Technology workshop series that I am organizing (please see related article, page 7). If you cannot attend one of those sessions, please introduce yourself if you see me at the reference desk, or stop by my office on the second floor of Shain Library. If you’re on Twitter, please follow me at @jcwlibrarian. I look forward to working with you!

Video Platform Kaltura Debuts at Connecticut College

In response to the need for an easy way to manage videos in the classroom, Information Services is now providing access to Kaltura, a video delivery service that allows faculty to upload and access videos easily, and to build a unique collection. The software is available as a Moodle plug-in and can therefore be easily integrated into coursework.

Using the Kaltura plug-in, faculty can now upload videos to Moodle for class viewing without the size restrictions that had previously existed. The plug-in also allows instructors to create video-based assignments by which students can upload video projects to Moodle. In playing back videos, Kaltura detects the bandwidth and provides the best-quality resolution for a particular user’s computer system. It is also available through mobile devices.

Information Services’ Instructional Technology staff selected Kaltura to provide this service in part because it is a robust “cloud” (Web based) resource that allows an online central digital media repository. Since it is cloud based, Kaltura can be used any time, as long as the user has an Internet connection and access to Connecticut College resources.

For more information or to schedule assistance with video products, contact Mike Dreimiller (x2093, mcdre@conncoll.edu) in the Digital Curriculum Center, located in the lower level of Shain Library.
New IS Staff Member: Rosemary Reid

I am very excited to be returning to Administrative Information Systems as a programmer. I originally joined Connecticut College in 1998 as a programmer in AIS and enjoyed two and a half years working with the Office of Admission before I chose to stay home with my children. After 12 great years with my kids and other endeavors, I am energized to be coming back to IS. It is exciting to see the Banner administrative software system fully implemented on campus, and I am looking forward to continuing the growth of Enterprise Systems.

My academic background includes a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Holy Cross, where I found my love of computer science. I then received a master’s degree in computer science from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. I worked for Digital Equipment Corporation in several capacities. As a programmer/analyst, I supported the library systems of the company; later, I created a graphical user interface for an artificial intelligence system that the sales force used to configure networks, and I served as a consultant to automotive customers. (Incidentally, I am also a Connecticut College alum with a master’s degree in teaching mathematics, but found that that wasn’t for me.)

I am happy to be back! I am ready to learn new technology, and I am thrilled about being able to see old friends again. Relaunching a career after staying home has many twists and turns. Mine was no exception, and I’m happy that it brought me back to Connecticut College.

This time around, I will start out by working with Human Resources and Finance. I am thrilled to be back on this beautiful campus—it is a great place to work! I am looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and making new friends.

Technology Workshops Will Expand in Fall

This fall, Information Services’ Instructional Technology staff will offer the newly expanded Teaching with Technology workshop series. The workshops will provide opportunities for faculty to explore new models of teaching and learning, and to keep up to date on new and emerging technologies. Each semester, four to five workshops will be offered. Topics for fall 2013 include “Freshman Research Skills,” “Students as Creators: Incorporating Video Projects” and “Productivity Tools to Make Work and Life Easier.” The schedule for fall 2013 can be found on the Information Services website at http://bit.ly/16TR7y or in the new Instructional Technology blog, “Engage” (teachtech.conncoll.wordpress.com). Jessica McCullough, instructional design librarian, organizes the series and is seeking suggestions for future workshop topics; to contact her with any questions—or to RSVP to a workshop—please email jmccull1@conncoll.edu.
Plans Proceeding for Major Library Renovation  

continued from page 1

Just as important, small-group study areas will grow from four to 14, responding to a need for such spaces as pedagogical methods have put greater emphasis upon collaboration. A lower-level Technology Commons will allow individual students as well as groups to access the instructional technologies that are increasingly being utilized in teaching and learning. And the Blue Camel Café, a popular spot not only for socializing but also for College community members to work together, will move to the first floor in a space that will be available 24 hours a day.

According to W. Lee Hisle, vice president for information services and College librarian, such changes were the direct result of student feedback. “Students have been telling us for years,” he says, “that there were not enough of the right kind of spaces for the way research is being done in the 21st century.” Study spaces were too small, and there were too few seats for the number of students who wanted to work in the building. The renovation seeks to address these concerns directly.

The revamp of Shain Library is also dovetailing with reduction of the footprint of the library collection by approximately one-third, a reflection of the trends toward smaller print collections, greater usage of electronic materials, and increased allocation of library space for collaboration and access to technology. Moreover, Hisle adds, “digital scholarship didn’t exist when the building was built in the 1970s,” and thus it was increasingly necessary to revamp the library into a facility that could support current forms of scholarship and pedagogy.

The impetus to renovate Shain Library actually began prior to 2000, when the Library Renovation and Extension Project committee was convened to seek ways not only to renovate Shain Library but to expand it as well. When funds for that initial effort fell short, conversations have taken place ever since with various consultants and architects about how to renovate the library. The project made its way onto the strategic plan that was developed shortly before the arrival of President Leo Higdon in 2006. Once Higdon arrived on campus, the library renovation became the final project in the Campaign for Connecticut College.

The renovation is being designed by Boston-based Schwartz/Silver Architects, the firm that had also designed the library’s Charles Chu Room. The firm, Hisle says, “has an excellent reputation for academic library buildings.” Schwartz/Silver won a competition of 14 architectural firms to secure the contract. At present, Information Services, with the help of a transition architect, is planning for the transition year, during which substantial portions of Shain Library will be closed for public usage. Look for further details about the renovation and transition in the year ahead.

Advanced Workstations Coming in Fall

Students, faculty and staff using the library this fall will be able to get a preview of the enhancements the library renovation will bring. A generous gift from Diane Y. Williams ’59 is funding an advanced cluster of workstations that will be part of the future Technology Commons area that is coming to the lower level of Shain Library as part of the renovation (see related article beginning on page 1). Each powerful workstation will have dual displays to enable students to run multiple applications and work off two screens and applications simultaneously. For example, one student might display video-based instruction on using Final Cut Pro from Lynda.com on one display while editing a video project on the second display; or a student could search for and display scholarly resources on one screen while writing a research paper on the second display. Contemporary furniture will help to round out the experience.
In Oberlin Group Survey, Libraries Report Higher-Than-Average Activity, Spending

by Fred Folmer

Each year the Oberlin Group—a consortium of selective liberal arts college libraries to which Connecticut College belongs—conducts a survey in which members are asked to report multiple statistics for expenditures, resource allocation and library usage. The most recent annual survey indicated that the College had invested more in its libraries than the mean for the group, spending higher-than-average amounts overall and on new library materials. Connecticut College also reported higher-than-average figures in several key areas of library usage.

For the fiscal year ending in 2012, Connecticut College spent more, on average, on its libraries than other Oberlin Group institutions. In total library expenditures, Connecticut College spent $4.05 million, a figure that was above the group mean of $3.67 million. This was also true of per-student expenditures; the Oberlin Group mean was $1,665, whereas the College spent $2,128 per student.

The College also outpaced its fellow institutions in acquiring new library materials. Of the total $4.05 million that the libraries at Connecticut College spent, $1.7 million was spent on acquisitions, with an average of $898 per student. These numbers, too, were above the respective means for the Oberlin Group, which on average spent $1.368 million on acquisitions and $625 per student. As a percentage, the College spent 42 percent of its library budget on acquisitions, while the Oberlin Group spent a mean of 37 percent on acquisitions. Further, Connecticut College’s expenditure of $144,712 on electronic resources was well above the group mean of $87,329.

Connecticut College also reported reference transactions and gate count (persons coming in to the library) that were higher than the Oberlin Group mean. And while the College’s libraries had 124 reference transactions in a typical week, the Oberlin Group mean was 110. The College’s gate count in a typical week was 10,055—higher than the group mean of 9,446.

Finally, the College was also somewhat above the mean for the Oberlin Group in total staff salaries; while Connecticut College’s libraries spent $1.39 million on library-related salaries, the Oberlin Group’s mean total staff salary figure was $1.19 million. The College was very close to the Oberlin Group mean in total FTE positions (24.07 and 24.09, respectively).

IS Faculty Town Meeting Planned

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

On Wednesday, Oct. 30, Information Services will hold a town meeting specifically designed for faculty. At the meeting, attendees will be able to hear about initiatives involving instructional technology, library services and collections, and information technology, as well as provide input about IS projects and initiatives. Topics will include planning for the transition year (academic year 2014-15), when Shain Library will be closed; faculty publishing and scholarly communications issues; Lynda.com, the newly available Web-based software training tool; improved IT Service Desk and wireless services; CamelWeb, the Next Generation; and the upcoming Camel Card. The meeting will be held from 11:50 a.m. to 1 p.m., at New London Hall, Room 101. We hope to see you there.
LIBRARY EXHIBITS

Living Thinkers: An Archive of a Community of Women
Sept. 23–Oct. 25, Shain Library

Shain Library will exhibit objects from filmmaker Roxana Walker-Canton’s collection documenting the experience of contemporary African-American women in academia. A professor of visual and performing arts at Fairfield University, Walker-Canton studies the intersection of race, class and gender in the experiences of contemporary black women professors and administrators, tracing their education narratives from girlhood to their present status in academia. Despite gains, progress continues to be slow, and the number of black women in these positions continues to be low. In spite of the continued struggles facing this community, African-American women in the academy have used the university as a space to find personal identity, give voice to global and community issues facing the black community at large and black women more specifically, and make significant contributions to American intellectual history. The exhibit will feature archival items from Professor Walker-Canton’s research.

Capturing Animals in Motion: Paintings from the Chu–Griffis Collection
Sept. 3–Dec. 20, Chu Room

The Chu–Griffis Collection has a wide range of paintings featuring animals both fanciful and realistic. This exhibit will present watercolors of the mammals, birds and fish in traditional literati paintings.

Recent Acquisitions in the Artists’ Books Collection
Sept. 3–Dec. 20, Lear Center Exhibit Area

The Lear Center has been aggressively collecting artists’ books for over a decade, amassing a substantial collection widely used in student learning and projects. Highlights of materials collected in the past three years will be featured in this exhibit, demonstrating the range and variety of contemporary artists’ books.

Upcoming Library Events

Sound Lab Lecture
Oct. 10, Ernst Common Room

David Pogue, New York Times technology columnist and host of PBS’s Nova, will be this year’s Sound Lab lecturer. The title of the talk is “How Smart Can We Get.” David Pogue has gained renown as a communicator of high-tech trends to a broad audience as a reporter for the New York Times, author of several books in the popular For Dummies series (including Classical Music for Dummies, Opera for Dummies and Magic for Dummies), and creator of clever, highly produced short video clips on the Times’ website. He is also currently the host of PBS’s popular Nova program, and writes and hosts several segments a year for the CBS Sunday Morning News. Pogue will speak at 7:30 p.m., with a question-and-answer session to follow.