Shain Library Reopening with Improved Spaces and New Furnishings

AS SPRING BREAK ENDS and patrons begin to reoccupy the newly renovated Shain Library and use its services and spaces, they’ll have quite an array of new elements at their disposal. The new entryway and patio — with glass panels that reach to the newly elongated ceiling — may be the most visible and striking of the upgrades. But once library users go inside, they’ll see that many spaces within the library have been reimagined as well. There will be new furniture and a new look, and more spaces to foster collaboration on projects. Following is an overview of some of the new features.

New Spaces

The library’s new look begins even before one has entered the building. The central entrance to Shain has been extended outward and upward, and the new glass entryway lends a visually compelling note while allowing in much more natural light than in the past. Visitors to campus can now walk toward the library and in one glance witness some of the activity inside it.

Just inside, the reimagined areas greet library users immediately. Entryway upgrades include a “living room” that will also serve as a reception area for events taking place in the Chu Room. Nearby, the Blue Camel Café — having been relocated from the lower level — will be in a prominent, light-filled space on the first floor. And although the café’s open hours will be similar to what they have been in the past, the space will be available for 24-hour study — a brand-new feature for Shain Library.

Study and work areas on the first floor will be enhanced with additional computers and work tables, and reference and circulation areas are being completely rebuilt. Further, the PC Classroom on the lower level has now been relocated and reoriented; the widened room will now have two projection screens to improve classroom visibility. Nearby on the lower level will be the brand-new Technology Commons, offering multifaceted opportunities for collaboration and digital research and project support (see the article on page 3 for more on the Technology Commons).

What’s more, the huge glass entryway is not only visually appealing. It also creates two brand-new reading rooms on the second and third floors that will receive copious amounts of natural light, creating an arresting ambience that, it is hoped, will help students and other library users feel more comfortable as they study, work and collaborate.

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Noodlin’…

THE NEWLY REMODELED and expanded Charles E. Shain Library will reopen, five months early, on March 23, after more than 15 years of planning, scheming and dreaming, and nearly a year of construction. It will have been worth the wait. The library offers numerous improvements, both functional and aesthetic, to serve Connecticut College students and faculty in the 21st century.

At the building’s dedication in 1976, Kurt Vonnegut nicknamed the Charles E. Shain Library the “Noodle Factory,” a moniker still appropriate some 40 years later. Though much has changed in academic libraries, they remain central to a quality college experience. And the mission of an academic library is unchanged as a place that fosters research and scholarship by providing the resources and services for students to achieve their academic goals. The methods, tools, services and spaces needed to achieve that mission may be dramatically different, but the mission remains the same.

The new Shain Library, like other quality academic libraries built specifically for the 21st century, will be an intellectual social center and a place of community, where a variety of complementary services — all dedicated to encouraging discovery, collaboration and student achievement — can be found. A true “information commons” with a robust service environment, Shain will be home to the IT Service Desk, the Blue Camel Café (doubling as a 24-hour study area), the Digital Scholarship and Curriculum Center, open-access computing workstations, multiple small-group collaboration pods, many research areas illuminated by natural light, computer labs, seminar space and training facilities.

Perhaps most dramatically, the Academic Resource Center and its staff of learning specialists will now be located within Shain’s walls, helping eliminate any stigma to “getting help” on course assignments or academic skills. And of course, the library will continue to provide research and reference support services, as well as continue to improve the College’s excellent academic materials collection.

The renovated building is a dramatic structure that’s full of light, in keeping with the trend for new academic libraries to break from the mediocre designs of the late 20th century. Shain will have dramatic views from the upper-floor windows, a spacious outdoor patio, and colorful, modern furniture reflecting the clean lines of the building’s architecture. It will be a new iconic structure for Connecticut College. My hope is that the new Shain will symbolize the importance of research and scholarship to academic life for generations of our students and faculty. The Noodle Factory is reborn!

I look forward to welcoming you to the new Charles E. Shain Library in March.

W. Lee Hisle, Ph.D.
Vice President for Information Services and Librarian of the College

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An online archive of past issues of Inside Information can be viewed at www.conncoll.edu/is.

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Technology Commons Expands Collaboration, Digital Research Opportunities

THE SHAIN LIBRARY RENOVATIONS have been designed with multiple purposes in mind, but two of the most prominent goals have been to provide additional possibilities for collaboration and to increase the facility’s technical capability. The new, lower-level Technology Commons fulfills both these objectives, offering redesigned spaces and services that will be highly conducive to both digital research and group projects.

With two walls of windows, the Technology Commons will provide lots of natural light, creating an inviting space in which to work. The area will contain flexible tables, chairs and whiteboards that can be arranged and rearranged to meet the needs of the individual, group or class using the space.

The Technology Commons will also have a truly distinctive, cutting-edge focal point: a four- by eight-foot Christie MicroTile visualization wall, funding for which has been generously donated by Diane Y. Williams ’59. Available for class and course project use, and for special activities, the wall offers distinctive opportunities for large-scale projection, both within and outside classes. The Technology Commons Advanced Workstation Cluster, consisting of four Windows and four Mac OS computers, will further augment the area. The cluster was also a gift from Diane Y. Williams ’59. Each of the eight high-end workstations in this cluster has a large workspace, and dual displays to facilitate running multiple applications simultaneously.

Another significant aspect of the Technology Commons is a Digital Scholarship & Curriculum Center (DSCC), which has a new name and an expanded mission. The groundwork for the renovated DSCC began in 2013, when the former Digital Curriculum Center (DCC) added the word “scholarship” to its name. Prior to the name change, the DCC had been focused on helping faculty accomplish technology-related tasks. Now, the renamed DSCC puts support of digitally oriented research and projects front and center.

The renovated library will give the DSCC greater opportunities to do just that. The Center is now staffed by Lyndsay Bratton, who occupies the newly created position of librarian for digital scholarship and visual resources. Last summer, Bratton joined Mike Dreimiller, digital media specialist, in staffing the facility.

The Center’s capabilities have long included video editing, scanning, and digital conversions of many kinds of documents, such as cassettes, vinyl records, print materials, slides and VHS tapes. Following the renovation, the DSCC will have more powerful computers to go along with the aforementioned state-of-the-art visualization wall. Further, experimentation with new and emerging technologies, such as 3-D printing, will be a primary activity in the new space.

Dreimiller says that user training on these new technologies will be a priority. “We can help people explore ways that new technologies can be used in the curriculum,” he says. “For example, if a faculty member is wondering, ‘Would an iPad work in my class?’, the DSCC can help them answer that question.” The DSCC’s user training capabilities will receive an upgrade in the form of a teaching lab, where DSCC staff or faculty can train students in the use of advanced technologies.

What’s more, as part of the overall Technology Commons, the new DSCC will be at the center of what’s envisioned as a lively, technology-oriented campus hub, where social life will commingling with digital research support. “The new space will be much more visible,” says Bratton. “We hope it will be a popular hangout space.” Instructional Technology staff also expect this prominence to facilitate new avenues of digital projects and research on campus. — Fred Folmer and Chris Penniman

Cell Phone Coverage Improving with Addition of Verizon Wireless, Equipment Upgrades

THREE OF THE FOUR leading cell phone carriers will soon be transmitting to campus from Shain Library. Verizon Wireless, the newest provider to transmit from the library, is installing its equipment this semester, joining Sprint and T-Mobile on Shain’s rooftop.

What’s more, all three carriers are installing new equipment that has the latest data transmission capability. This upgrade represents a welcome improvement in campus cell phone coverage; there have been many places on campus with weak signals. Going forward, Connecticut College will have the best cell phone service from three of the most popular cell phone companies.

There may also be more to come. Another huge cell phone company is negotiating with the College to locate a transmission site on campus. If negotiations are successful, service will improve even further. Whatever the case, thanks to service additions and upgrades, you’ll be able to hear a lot better going forward. — Bruce Carpenter
**Online Enrollment Guide Eases Transition for New Students**

**IN DECEMBER 2014**, students who enrolled for Spring 2015 were the first to see the new Online Enrollment Guide in CamelWeb. These students were also the first to have their Connecticut College accounts created automatically. Does that sound exciting and impressive? If not, read on, and it will.

First, let’s take a look at the way enrollment was previously handled.

**Old School**

Students who committed to the College as early as December for the following fall would receive a printed Enrollment Guide in the mail in February or March. This was a packet of forms, envelopes and instructions. The students would fill out the forms and snail-mail them to the appropriate offices. Over the summer, the various offices would process the returned forms. Some time in June, students would receive their Connecticut College accounts, which gave them access to the network, email, CamelWeb, Self Service and Moodle. Account creation was handled in batches, and the process was largely manual. Therefore, the first students to commit and pay their deposits would not be provided with access to online resources until six months later.

Now, after much work over the course of several months by Enterprise Systems and the Office of Communications, in collaboration with many other departments, the College has a new, more efficient way to process enrolling students.

**New School**

When a student commits to Connecticut College with an initial deposit, the Office of Admission marks the student “paid” in the primary system of record, Banner. That action triggers a slew of automated processes that create the student’s network account and email address, and that grant access to Moodle, Self Service, CamelWeb and other resources. When the student’s account is ready, an email is automatically sent to his or her home email address to welcome the student to Connecticut College; explain how to log in to CamelWeb for the first time; and access resources, including the Online Enrollment Guide. All of this now takes from three to seven hours. The end result is that students are welcomed to the community almost as soon as they make the commitment rather than six months later. Big difference, right?

**How It Works**

The welcome email encourages enrolling students to begin filling out the online forms in the Enrollment Guide. These forms are presented as a checklist of items, with date ranges next to each. The student can select an item to see the specific instructions and links for it. As students complete forms required by a particular office, that office is notified and can begin processing the forms. Each office uses the Enrollment Guide Manager, an online tracking system, to chart student progress on their items. At the bottom of the checklist, students see a legend that explains the different status codes in the form of traffic lights. Students can come back to the Enrollment Guide in CamelWeb any time to check progress and complete more items.

**Future Plans**

The Online Enrollment Guide is a vast improvement over the former paper format, but the project was launched as “Phase I” because it is only the first iteration. “Phase II” is slated for November/December 2015; this phase will further streamline the process so that the enrolling students will see progress happen sooner as they complete checklist items. — Laurie Schaeffer
Streaming Media Tools Expand Libraries’ Collections

MEDIA HAS BECOME an integral tool in the classroom for enhancing teaching and student engagement. At Connecticut College, incorporating video into instruction just got a whole lot easier with the recent addition of the VAST Academic Video Online and Kanopy streaming media resources.

These two complementary but distinct resources provide online access to licensed digital content developed specifically for undergraduates. They can serve as valuable aids to faculty who are seeking to introduce new ideas or generate discussion in face-to-face teaching, or who are utilizing the flipped classroom model.

Many faculty and students will already be familiar with some of Kanopy’s film producers, which include the American Dance Festival, Documentary Educational Resources (DER), Filmmakers Library, First Run Features, Kino Lorber, PBS and the Roland Collection. But the resource also provides access to content from other, less familiar producers, and this can help faculty and students to expand their awareness by exploring new and engaging content. What’s more, the media from Kanopy is immediately available for use on computers and mobile devices.

The addition of Kanopy to the libraries’ resources allows campus users to contribute to the collection through a unique patron-driven acquisitions model similar to our ebook program. Users have immediate access through the library catalog to more than 2,000 documentary and feature films, including an extensive collection of classic foreign language titles. The library only pays for films that are viewed four or more times for one minute or longer. Searching directly in Kanopy’s interface allows users to see their complete catalog and use the “Request Now” feature for any title that is not immediately available in our current collection.

VAST, a database from Alexander Street Press, includes a broad selection of interdisciplinary documentary films, interviews, performances, news programs and newsreels, field recordings, commercials, and raw footage. VAST currently provides access to more than 22,000 titles, including more than 10,000 full-length titles in the humanities and social sciences. New content is added monthly, and records are added to the libraries’ catalog, which makes them searchable in Caravan or CrossSearch. Further, users familiar with Ethnographic Video Online can still access this resource through VAST.

With VAST and Kanopy alike, faculty will particularly benefit from the ease of using content that has been digitized to enhance live streaming over the network, along with the assurance of copyright compliance. Kanopy and VAST both include playlist and clip tool features that enable faculty to link or embed content in Moodle. Transcripts are available for most content.

Information Services sees streaming media as an essential component of the collections. As with any new format, we anticipate changes and are ready to support our faculty and students in using these new resources. You can contact your library liaison, or visit the new Videos & Streaming Media @ Connecticut College research guide, to assist you in making the most of these new resources. — Beth Hansen

CrashPlan System Will Provide Automatic Computer Backups

WHEN TECHNICIANS ASK faculty and staff members how frequently they back up their computer data, they usually respond by saying “once a month” — or by admitting that they don’t do backups at all. Unfortunately, a few College-owned computers are infected, damaged or go missing every month. If the computer is not backed up properly, the data can’t be restored, and this results in the permanent loss of essential academic, business and/or personal data.

Recognizing that computer backups are essential to continue College business, classroom activities and faculty scholarship, Information Services has purchased CrashPlan, a desktop backup system for faculty and staff computers. The system prevents lost data and reduces the staff time needed to set up or repair College-owned Windows and Macintosh computers.

CrashPlan runs in the background, automatically and continuously backing up data whenever a computer is connected to the Internet. No external drives or portable storage devices are needed to perform the backup. Password-protected data is securely encrypted on College-issued computers, during transit as well as in storage. Moreover, there is no limit to the amount of data that can be protected.

Information Services staff are installing the system on all College-owned computers issued to faculty and staff members, ensuring that no computer or department will be left unprotected. Many of our colleagues at other colleges, including Wesleyan, Colby, Trinity and Wellesley, use CrashPlan. Internet 2, a very reputable academic organization, also markets CrashPlan. In short, CrashPlan is a prudent solution to the very real risk of lost data. — Bruce Carpenter
Bruce Carpenter
To Retire in March

BRUCE CARPENTER, director of Technical Support for Information Services, will retire in March of this year — just long enough to be able to say that he’s spent 15 years at the College. He began working here in 1999 as director of Media Services and team leader for Technical Support. A year later, his position refocused, and he became director of Technical Support and ended his directorship of Media Services.

Bruce came to the College from Quinnipiac University, where he’d studied English as an undergraduate. Several years after finishing his bachelor’s degree, he got a master’s in instructional technology from the University of Bridgeport.

At Quinnipiac, Bruce first worked as the director of the language laboratory; later, he became the coordinator and then director of Media Services. Bruce also served Quinnipiac as an assistant professor of photography, and he assisted in the design of facilities, including the university’s library.

So what will Bruce do in retirement? His initial plans — which he estimates may take five to six months — are 1) to become totally unscheduled; and 2) devise a strategy to avoid any and all meetings.

After that, Bruce wants to have time to enjoy living in Mystic, a town in which he has deep roots — he grew up there, and returned in 1999. What’s more, Bruce’s forebears first came to Mystic in approximately 1655. Perhaps unsurprisingly, then, he wants to immerse himself in local history, and he’s looking forward to returning to photography as an avocation.

Maybe, too, Bruce and his wife Carol will make some trips into the world at large. But I’ll admit that I like the picture of Bruce wandering through the saltmarshes and stone wall–lined woods of Stonington with a camera around his neck. Bon voyage, Mr. Carpenter — we’ll miss your kindness and gentle humor in those meetings you love so much! — Carrie Kent

Student Worker Profile: Diana Petravicjusa ’15

MY NAME IS DIANA PETRAVIC-JUSA, and I am a graduating senior at Connecticut College with a triple major in economics, international relations and German studies. I have worked at Media Services since the second semester of my first year, and am very grateful that I was given the opportunity to learn so much about various media equipment. Not only did I get to improve my time-management and technological skills, I was lucky to be supervised by the friendliest managers, David Baratko and Jeff Gada.

Shain Reopening
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Collaboration Rooms

The renovated Shain also has 10 new rooms dedicated for students to meet and work on projects together. There will be two such rooms on the main floor, each equipped with six chairs, and four rooms each on the second and third floor, with between two and four chairs.

All of these rooms will have large LED video displays with an impressive feature: a monitor that is equipped with a device that enables students to display the contents of their laptop on it. Students working together in a room will be able to switch the display from one laptop to another. Rooms will also be equipped with “wall talkers” — wallpaper that can essentially be used in the same fashion as a whiteboard.

In order to use the rooms, students will be asked to schedule them in advance. There will be a kiosk on each floor near the collaboration rooms that be can used to access the room-booking software. Initially, students will be able to book rooms for up to two hours at a time, but not more than four hours per day.

New Furnishings

Furniture in the renovated Shain Library is designed to be more aesthetically pleasing as well as more practical, and furniture has been selected with an eye toward both. But there was one factor that perhaps trumped both these qualities: “The first thing,” says W. Lee Hisle, vice president for Information Services and librarian of the College, “is that we wanted comfort.” This comfort, he says, needed to apply to any task at hand, including long-term study, casual study or social interaction.

Further, the furniture was selected with an eye toward unifying with the architect’s vision for the new space — a modern aesthetic that is mostly silver in color and free of ornamentation. “It’s a relatively clean design, and it’s simple to use and adjust,” Hisle says. “We wanted to make sure the furniture fit into the building’s design and color schemes, and with the ways students study now.”

Library users will find new furniture throughout the library — even in parts of the building that have not been renovated. Reading spaces around Shain will have chairs with soft but solid backs; collaboration rooms will have new chairs and tables; computer workstations will also be newly outfitted. The library’s new living room, found just inside the entrance, will be equipped with a couch, and more couches and soft chairs will also be found on the main floor.

The changes come to Shain Library just as libraries are experiencing a profound transition — they’re becoming facilities that are not merely meant to warehouse physical books but that can also cultivate overlapping connections of numerous kinds — scholarly, digital and social. Shain’s new spaces and furnishings are meant to promote these kinds of connections, and to pave the way for Connecticut College’s future students to engage in the most current kinds of learning. — Fred Folmer and Kathy Gehring
Special Collections Sees Increase in Usage

THE SHAIN LIBRARY BUILDING may have been unavailable for nearly 10 months, but the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections & Archives has experienced a marked increase in usage in the past semester. The Lear Center’s services were among the few IS public services that were not relocated by the construction in Shain. Although researchers had to make advance appointments and be walked through construction areas, access to materials in the Lear Center Reading Room continued.

What’s more, classes at the College have continued to use rare and archival materials. Because the Shain building has not been able to accommodate groups of students during construction, Lear Center staff have brought collections to the classroom, conducting sessions in nearly every classroom building on campus.

The growth has been startling. In the fall semester of 2014, Special Collections & Archives staff conducted 27 class sessions with a total of 270 students (14.1 percent of the College student body), compared to eight classes with 120 students in the fall of 2013. The number of total researchers also showed growth across the two years, rising from 106 in fall of 2013 to 128 in fall 2014. The increase is especially impressive considering the logistical difficulty of gaining access to the Shain building, and the inability of Lear Center staff to accommodate every request. With the reopening of the library building in March, we eagerly anticipate even stronger increases in the use of primary sources for teaching and research. — Ben Panciera

Funding Will Help Preserve Civil War Collections

AS Inside Information reported in the spring 2014 issue, the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections & Archives has acquired a Civil War archive that helps to tell the story of Connecticut soldiers in that conflict. Among these documents is a fascinating collection of correspondence that, because of its condition, could not be made accessible to researchers. But with the help of Maureen Boyd in the Advancement office, the Lear Center has been able to identify funding opportunities to defray the costs of treating the materials. Subsequently, this winter the Center received a grant from the William and Alice Mortensen Foundation to aid in the preservation of historical documents.

The letters to be treated — which were written by, or to, Civil War soldier Homer Curtis — had been stored for much of the past century and a half in their original envelopes. As a result, they had become creased to such an extent that they could only be opened with great difficulty and risk of damage to the paper.

The letters are being treated by Sarah Dove, an independent art and paper conservator based in Stonington. The process involves cleaning the paper where possible and placing the letters in a humidification chamber. This gentle application of moisture will allow the folded paper to relax. Once the paper is flexible enough that it may be safely opened, it is stacked between blotting papers; as it dries, it remains flat. After the treatments are complete, the collection will be returned to the Lear Center so that it can be processed and made available to students and researchers.

The Curtis correspondence is a particularly valuable collection. Homer Curtis enlisted in the Second Connecticut Heavy Artillery and remained with his regiment through the end of the war. In four years of service, Curtis exchanged nearly 200 letters with his family back home, particularly with his mother and sister. While letters from the battlefield are relatively common, letters from home survive in much lower numbers, providing students a rare opportunity to explore the history of the period from multiple perspectives. — Ben Panciera
Student Worker Profile: Abbye Woodward ’15

MY NAME IS ABBYE WOODWARD, and I am a graduating senior from Worcester, Mass. I am an English major and art minor, and I’m currently working with Professor Courtney Baker on a senior thesis involving bodily harm and transformation in the picture book. I have used my time at Connecticut College to take advantage of some of the amazing things happening in the area, and have never regretted taking the time to explore. This year I attended I AM Fest, the Fall Food Stroll in downtown New London, and Mystic Eats. I’ve also stumbled upon some great local bands and restaurants, and have become somewhat of a regular at the new ice cream shop on Bank Street. This year I also became involved with a campus band and have performed several shows sponsored by Musicians Organized for Band Rights on Campus (MOBROC).

I’m currently — and quite appropriately — applying to library jobs, many of which are in the children’s room of a public library. I have yet to stop reading children’s books, and I spent the summer after my sophomore year interning and volunteering in two public libraries. I would ultimately love to be a youth services librarian, and I plan to earn my master’s degree in library science.

Upcoming Exhibits

A Sight Once Seen, Can Never Be Forgotten: Connecticut Volunteers in the Civil War
March 22–May 13, 2015

On April 9, 1965, Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered Confederate forces to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, effectively ending the war. This year will mark the 150th anniversary of Lee’s surrender. To commemorate this event, we will exhibit a selection of materials from Linda Lear Center collections that illustrate the lives and experiences of Connecticut soldiers during the war, including letters, documents, prints, realia, books and broadsides. The exhibit will be drawn from the papers of William Digby Smith, Cornelius Gold, John Bishop, William Reynolds and Thomas K. Pimer.

Upcoming Faculty Workshops

FOLLOWING IS A LISTING of upcoming faculty workshops. Registration is not required, but is recommended. To register, visit http://conncoll.libcal.com/calendar/is or email Jessica McCullough at jmccull1@conncoll.edu.

What’s New in the Library!

Friday, March 27, 2:30–3:30 p.m., and Thursday, April 2, 9:30–10:30 a.m.
Davis Room, Main Floor, Shain Library

Faculty, please join Chris Penniman, Carrie Kent and Information Services staff for refreshments and a tour of Shain Library. The library will have many new exciting spaces, technologies and services available to you and your students. We will focus on how the renovated library can best serve you in your research and teaching.

Introducing the Visualization Wall

Wednesday, April 8, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
The Visualization Wall, Technology Commons, Lower Level Shain Library

Join us at the brand-new Diane Y. Williams ’59 Visualization Wall for a demonstration of some of its exciting capabilities, including a visually dazzling high-resolution display, touch-enabled interactivity, and the simultaneous display of up to five computers or devices. Bring your laptop or mobile devices to experiment with the wall. We will answer questions, demonstrate various uses, and discuss ideas for projects and events, as well as future capabilities we hope to explore. The session will be organized by Lyndsay Bratton and Mike Dreimiller; lunch will be provided.

“For the Intellectual and Spiritual Life of All”: The Development of Connecticut College’s Library
May 14–June 30, 2015

Join us as we celebrate the opening of the newly renovated Shain Library with an exhibit tracing the history and development of the library at Connecticut College, from its humble beginnings as a room in New London Hall to its current position, not only as a center of student research and collaboration but as a primary student gathering space on campus.