Inside Information   Information Services

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inside information

Winter 2004

Improving Our Classrooms

SOME THINGS HAVEN'T changed since Professor Carola Ernst taught French in New London Hall in 1920. Using a blackboard remains a popular teaching style; using a wooden tablet-arm chair to take notes is still an effective learning style. But since then major advances in classroom furniture, environmental conditions, teaching resources and changes in teaching and learning styles have taken place, and the rooms themselves need to be improved to support academic needs in 2004. According to Norman Fainstein, president of the college, "One of most important challenges facing

Connecticut College is that of remodeling our classrooms to be modern, effective and

New London Hall in 1920

flexible teaching spaces."

Through generous funding from the Keel Foundation instructional technologies have been added to many classrooms to enable faculty to enhance the curriculum with technology-accessible resources. To address the need to make the classrooms more comfortable and to provide an environment that is conducive to teaching and learning, a committee has been formed to assess our current classroom conditions, determine what our classrooms should be, and create a prioritized plan for classroom improvements.

The committee is composed of faculty, staff, and students: Alexis Dudden, assistant professor of history (chair); Dirk Held, professor of classics; Stuart Vyse, professor of psychology; Roger Brooks, associate dean of the faculty and professor of religious studies; Chris Penniman, director of instructional technology (facilitator); Jim Norton, director of physical plant; and Matthew Brogan '05. Its mission is to create a plan for the improvement of the approximately 50

Final Phase of iConn Project

AS THE EXPRESSION goes, "time flies when you are having fun", or should I say there really are not enough hours in the day to accomplish everything. Either way, the iConn project is now well past the halfway point of our 30-month implementation

with only 12 months left to go. That's right, the calendar year 2004 is the final 12 months of our implementation. During the coming year both the Student module and Human

Message from the VP

LATELY, I'VE BEEN thinking about the critical issues facing the College relative to Information Services over the next few years. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee has requested this information—but it's a topic never far from my mind. In fact, as I reviewed documents prepared

Perhaps a scaled down renovation that allows more effective use of the space we have in the current structure but creates new service spaces, more light in the upper floors, and a new entrance would be appropriate.

Second, information and instructional technology affect

Third, we need to decide if the materials collection of the college should be continually and minimally maintained and developed as a core aspect of our academic program. Inflation for the IS materials budgets is running at 6.144% over the last five years (7.98% for serials and 1.89% for monographs) but the college is not making commensurate annual adjustments to the materials budget. Without adjustments to counter inflation, collections will lose their currency and depth. Over time, our collections will become literary museums.

> "THE COMPETITION AMONG OUR PEER COLLEGES FOR THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST STUDENTS WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE A PROGRESSIVE STANCE, MAKING THE INVESTMENT TO PROVIDE THE BEST NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO OUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS AND TO PROVIDE A SECURE AND FAST NETWORK TO DO SO."

for Board meetings over the last few years outlining the challenges facing information services, I find a good deal of consistency. Of course, IS issues are really College issues—IS does not exist except to further the mission of the college. I think we have four major issues in front of us:

One, we need to resolve our direction with the proposed and needed Charles E. Shain Library renovation and expansion and to decide how to make the most effective use of our current space and then how to enlarge that space for more effective presentation and service. The building program recommendations of a few years ago now seem unrealistic. Yet, the building is inadequate in a number of ways and improvements are needed.

our lives daily—from WebCT services to email to ePortfolio to Banner. Threats to the security of our systems and the speed of network access are increasing. The college probably cannot afford to be, nor would it necessarily want to be, a cutting-edge college in this area. The competition among our peer colleges for the best and brightest students would seem to require a progressive stance, making the investment to provide the best new technologies to our faculty and students and to provide a secure and fast network to do so. We should offer quality education programs for the college community, provide current technologies in offices and classrooms, and adopt the best new technologies as they become stable, e.g., wireless access.

Fourth, although implementation of the Banner software for academic and administrative processes is proceeding smoothly, at issue is how much we want to leverage the investment we have made in Banner to improve college operations. We can simply use the software and see improvements take place over time—or we can be more proactive and, through additional investment and effort, accelerate the benefits to business and academic practices at the college more quickly and with more certain outcomes.

All of these issues require additional investment to resolve positively and the College has many other critical issues to consider as well. There will be no easy answers for us. By articulating these four, I hope they will at least be on the table and considered in our Strategic Plan.

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

More Than Meets the Eye: IS Student Workers

EVERY SEMESTER ABOUT 50 students work in several departments of Information Services. In addition to their studies and extracurricular activities, these student employees find the time to support IS staff. Look for more student profiles in future issues of the newsletter.

Sarah Rowe, a senior majoring in Environmental Studies with a minor in Anthropology, has worked in the Serials Department of Shain Library since her freshman year helping Serials Assistant Alexis Avery processing newspapers, checking in journals, preparing monthly bindery shipments, and the (seemingly) endless shifting of the bound journal collection. During her Spring 2003 semester, Sarah studied at the School for International Training in Quito, Ecuador in the Ecology and Conservation Program. She also secured a summer internship working for the small environmental NGO (non-governmental organization), Fundación Ecológica Rumicocha, where she spent her days traveling by mini-motorcycle through the Ecuadorian Amazon frequently getting stuck while trying to navigate through rivers. Sarah also lived with an Ecuadorian family, camped and did research in Cloud Forest, Amazon, Galapagos Islands, and Paramo. In collaboration with a Quichua spiritual leader and members of the local

Saul Slowik '04 and Sarah Rowe '04

community, she designed and implemented a project based on eco-spirituality. When Sarah graduates this May she intends to take a year off to study with an anthropologist in the field of Spiritual Ecology or to work for the publication, *Cultural Survival.* Secretly (although not any longer) she would like to live for a while in Ireland and learn how to pour the perfect Guinness. We're sure she'll get around to it.

Saul Slowik is a senior majoring in Government who has been working at the Help Desk with Ruth Seeley and Kevin Diminno, where he spends much of his time on the phone answering questions, troubleshooting, and battling troublesome viruses and worms. Saul, who hails from Cresskille, NJ, says that the best part of his job is the people he works with, both IS staff and student peers.

During the Fall Semester of 2002, Saul traveled to Cape Town, South Africa as a par-

ticipant in the SATA program with Professor Zimmer. He took courses at the University of Cape Town in South African history and culture and participated in a community histories program working on the magazine *Voices Of Our Backyard.* He also traveled through Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Zambia. During this past summer, Saul interned at the U.S. Department of Defense and returned to South Africa to work at the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria to help prepare for the presidential visit. As a result of this internship, Saul has been offered a job at the Department of Defense as a civilian employee. He foresees graduate school as well and intends to study International Relations at a university in Washington D.C. When asked what his responsibilities will be at the Department of Defense, Saul replied with the classic "If I told you, I'd have to kill you."

iConn

Resources/Payroll will complete implementation, training, testing and "go live."

Once again the accomplishments of the campus community deserve our applause and appreciation. Our technical and functional teams have now successfully brought up three of the Banner modules, Advancement, Finance, and Financial Aid, as well as a sub-module within the Student area for Admissions. The conversion process has been intense and many of us have worried about the project for months, but now we are working toward a successful completion by the end of the year.

Since July, the major stumbling block that everyone has been working to overcome is the need to create and run critical reports to retrieve the information that has been so carefully converted into the Banner system from the AIMS legacy system. After working with AIMS for so long, it is difficult to remember that all the reports we were so accustomed to running and receiving took a lot of time to write and perfect back in the days when AIMS was a new system. We are starting that process once again in the Banner system and functional users and their Senior Staff Administrators are beginning

to receive the critical information that they need.

It will take time for everyone on campus to become completely comfortable using a new system, especially one as structurally complicated as Banner, but so far we are all doing a tremendous job dealing with the changes that come with the conversion.

Please continue to have patience throughout the remainder of the implementation period and support those staff members in both IS and the functional areas who have been working so hard to make this project a success.

- Aileen Burdick

Improving Our Classrooms

general access Connecticut College classrooms scheduled by the Registrar.

The plan will propose complete classroom redesign: floor and wall coverings, lighting, light control, environmental controls, electricity, networking, furniture, and teaching tools, both technological and non-technology based. It will also inform the design process for future college building projects.

The Classroom Improvement Plan will prioritize improvements to the classrooms,
- Based on detailed inventory of current resources and classroom use
- Based on teaching styles now and in the future of faculty using the spaces
- Using tested classroom best-practice designs from other institutions

- Providing a detailed design proposal for each classroom

The committee held its first meeting in December and is beginning its efforts by developing an inventory of the classrooms. Michael Lauber, an architect with Ellenzweig Associates who is helping guide the committee's efforts, encouraged the group to recognize and preserve the special character of classrooms in older buildings like New London Hall and Fanning Hall. The committee will develop a plan by April 2004, and will solicit input from the campus using various forums. More information about Classroom Improvement is available on the Information Services web site.

- Chris Penniman

Farewell to Jerry Poirier

INFORMATION SERVICES BIDS a fond farewell to Jerry Poirier who has retired after seven years at Connecticut College. Jerry, who will be greatly missed, was the Senior Hardware Technician for IS. Known for his wit, humor and helpfulness, Jerry's departure will leave a space that can never be filled in quite the same capacity.

Aside from working with computers, Jerry is an avid photographer. He has taken many beautiful images of the campus and Arboretum. As a parting gift, we would like to share some of his photographs with the campus community. Please visit this seasonal gallery on the web at:
http://poirierphotos.conncoll.edu

Photo by Jerry Poirier

New Research Resources: ProQuest Historical Databases

AT THE END of the Fall semester the library added three new databases that will be useful to researchers in many disciplines. Produced by ProQuest, the three databases add wider coverage of newspapers and periodicals in terms of both topic and chronology to our existing electronic resources.

American Periodicals Series contains digitized images of American magazines and journals produced between 1741 and 1900. Featuring over 1100 titles, APS provides coverage from colonial times to the advent of American involvement in World War II. The database can be searched by keyword or browsed by publication title.

Periodicals Contents Index is an electronic index to millions of articles published in 4,250 periodicals in the humanities and social sciences. PCI combines a broad subject base with deep chronological coverage going back over 200 years grouped in 37 key subject areas. PCI can be searched by keyword, by a specific title, or browsed by topic or title.

Historical Newspapers is a digital archive of leading newspapers in North America that gives users ready access to the full content of each paper starting from their very first issues. Dates of coverage vary by paper. Users can search and view article images and full page images, page through issues and search by a variety of methods. Titles covered are the *New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor* and *Los Angeles Times*.

These three databases can be accessed by going to the Databases and Indexes section of the library homepage. For further assistance or information regarding these or any of Shain Library's electronic resources, please contact a reference librarian.

GIS News

ON JANUARY 20, 2004, the renovated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Lab in Olin 109A officially opened for classes. The lab was actually upgraded in summer 2003 and has been in use since then by many students for course projects. However this spring, the upgraded lab will be used for a semester-long GIS course, that Beverly Chomiak, a lecturer in physics, plans to teach every year.

In 2003, Connecticut College received a grant, with Wheaton College, from the National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education (NITLE) to increase awareness of how GIS can be used across the curriculum in liberal arts colleges. The grant provided funding for 12 teams from six colleges (Colby, Conn, Sarah Lawrence, Trinity, Wheaton, and Williams) to learn about GIS and develop GIS projects for use in courses, with each team consisting of a faculty member, a librarian, and an instructional technologist. Wheaton hosted a workshop for librarians and instructional tech-

Norman Fainstein and Chris Penniman explore the GIS Program

nologists in June. In October, Connecticut College hosted a workshop focusing on the faculty's needs. The workshop at Connecticut College provided faculty and their teams with an introduction to GIS, examples of how other teachers are using GIS in the liberal arts, advice on locating data and hands-on experience using GIS. The five teams participating from Connecticut College are developing projects in Botany, Economics (2), Psychology, and Religious Studies. Some projects were incorporated into courses over the fall. The remaining projects will be used in courses in 2004.

In December 2003, to support the growing use of GIS on campus we acquired a special license that enabled us to install the GIS software ArcView on each public computer in the library. Faculty can now reserve the PC Classroom for class use and the campus community can use the software during the extensive hours the library is open. You can learn more about GIS at Connecticut College on the college's web site, through Information Services.

Security and Virus Update

BLASTER. WELCHIA. GAOBOT. These are a few of the most serious Internet virus and worm attacks that have hit us recently. While our existing network security and anti-virus protections kept these attacks from completely shutting down our network, a lot of IS staff spent many extra hours tracking down and cleaning up infected faculty, staff, and student PCs. These attacks also alerted us to a few areas of network security that could use some improvement, and we are in the process of implementing several projects that I will briefly describe.

The first improvement to be made is that we have purchased and will be installing three Intrusion Detection and Prevention devices manufactured by NetScreen Technologies, Inc. These will allow us to detect and respond to virus, worm, and other Internet attacks in a much more timely manner. The second major improvement that we will be undertaking this year is to upgrade and expand the campus networking backbone to improve the capacity and manageability of the entire campus network.

While these improvements will help us to detect, prevent and respond to Internet viruses and worms, the best protection is still for every computer on campus to always have the latest critical software updates installed and to be protected by anti-virus software. If you have any question about whether or not your computer is adequately protected, please feel free to contact the Help Desk for more information.
- Brian Walsh

Library Releases New OPAC

BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2004, searching for bibliographic information in the CTW catalog will look a bit different because the CTW consortium has moved to a new integrated library system, Endeavor's Voyager. The new OPAC (online public access catalog) is called "Caravan" at Connecticut College. If you have questions about its features the reference librarians will be happy to give you a tour of the new OPAC.

e-Portfolio

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S E-PORTFOLIO is in demand. Dartmouth, Mount Holyoke, and Union are currently using our program in pilot tests for academic advising. The collaboration began when CELS staff presented e-Portfolio at the Small College Career Alliance (SCCA) Conference in May 2002. The well-developed functionality of the program was so impressive that other schools were eager to try it out. Connecticut College prepared for the collaboration with help from grant funding, and now additional financial support is being sought to allow CELS and IS to develop version 3.0 of e-Portfolio, an upgrade that will allow other schools to license and download the software and customize it to reflect their programs and needs.

Deborah Dreher, Associate Dean and Director of CELS, was responsible for developing the content for e-Portfolio based on two years' work creat-ing the CELS program. CELS encourages students to go through a process of self-assessment and goal setting and to create a comprehensive personal archive of information based on coursework, co-curricular experiences, internships and athletic accomplishments. e-Portfolio is unique because it has individual modules for each of these areas. Laurie Schaeffer and Mike Friscia from Information Services working with Cynthia Love from CELS developed the programming behind e-Portfolio. According to Love, the parallel challenges in developing this program were creating technology that works with the campus culture while needing to integrate that technology into the campus culture.

While people often think of e-Portfolio as a career development tool for students, it is also intended as a way to present a holistic portrait of a student for faculty advisers and to allow students to create a record of their accomplishments. At Connecticut College, 70% of the student body actively uses the program and another 15% uses it on an occasional basis. It is used by all of the Centers, and students find the program relevant for both academics and career development. They are able to retain papers, proposals, internship materials, non-confidential letters, articles, and even video clips for use in creating presentation portfolios that can be shared with academic advisers, graduate school admissions committees, and prospective employers. They can easily create tailored resumes for prospective employers by selecting individual items from the modules within e-Portfolio. Advisers and administrators can post announcements and assignments for students and retain advising notes. Viewing a student's e-Portfolio and posting to it are based on permissions granted by the student.

Spring Semester Exhibitions

From Card Catalog to OPAC: (January 22 - end of February)
A Short History of Library Automation at Connecticut College
This exhibit chronicling the history of library automation at the college is timed to mark the unveiling of the library's third integrated library system. Reception to celebrate on Thursday, January 22, 4-6 p.m.

Alexandra Silverthorne: Photographs of Political Activism (March - end of April)
Lecture by the photographer at 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, with reception to follow. Co-sponsored by the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy, this exhibit features recent work by alumna Alexandra Silverthorne.

Elizabeth Enders: A Retrospective (May - end of August)
In this exhibition New York graphic artist and alumna Elizabeth Enders will display some early work and her recent Untitled/Folio.

Captain Peter Stickland of New London and Gorée: Learning About the Past Through Historical Research, a lecture by Stephen Grant, Ed.D, Thursday, May 6, at 4 p.m. with reception to follow.

All of the exhibitions listed below are sponsored by the Friends of the Connecticut College Library and are free and open to the public. Unless otherwise noted all lectures will be given in the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room and receptions will be held in the lobby of Shain Library.

INFORMATION SERVICES

inside information is published by Information Services twice a year and is distributed to the Connecticut College Faculty, administrative offices and other interested members of the campus community. Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to Laurie M. Deredita, editor, at lmder@conncoll.edu. It can also be read online on the Information Services Home Page http://www.conncoll.edu/is/

Information Services Public Relations Committee:
Alexis Avery, Melissa Behney, Marisa Castagno, Laurie Deredita, Kevin DiMinno, Kathy Gehring, Amy Hannum, Ashley Hanson, Jean Swiontek

Improve your tech skills!

Information Services is offering technology instruction to members of the Connecticut College community, taught by members of the IS staff. Among the classes offered this semester are:

- **Scanning Images (PC Platform)**
- **Creating PDF Documents**
- **Web Sites in Foreign Languages**
- **Adobe Illustrator (PC Platform)**
- **Introduction to Power Point**
- **Photoshop Fun 101**
- **Web Delivery of Digital Video**
- **Web Delivery of Digital Audio**
- **Video Editing and DVD Creation**
- **Using Photoshop to Optimize Images**

check our web site to register for classes and check for updates and changes at:
http://training.conncoll.edu