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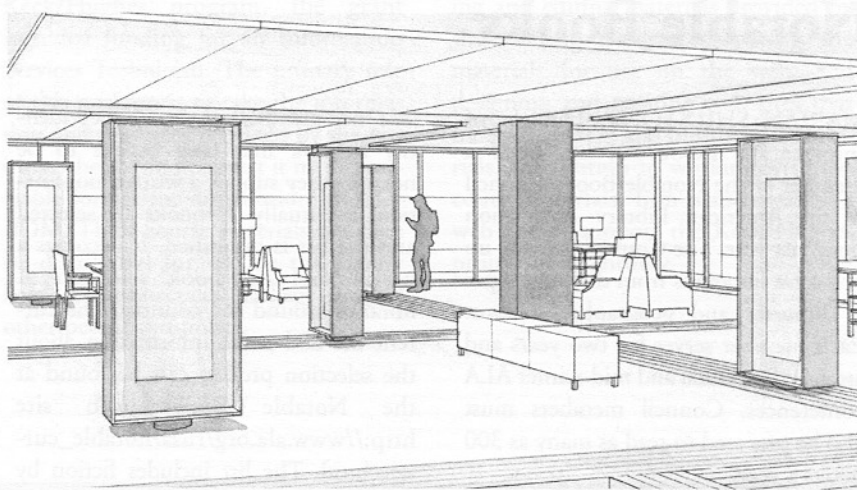
New Reading Room for Shain Library

THE MAIN FLOOR of the Charles E. Shain Library is about to undergo an exciting metamorphosis that will be even more dramatic than the transformation that occurred in 1995 when blue carpet replaced the library's original red. When students and faculty return to campus at the end of August, they will see a new room in the space to the right of the main entrance, an area now occupied by a cluster of computer terminals, part of the reference collection and the old card catalog. In its place will be a glass-walled room, the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room, designed to serve as an exhibition space for the library's Chu-Griffis Asian Art Collection and as a quiet reading room for students.

This wonderful enhancement to Shain Library has been made possible through the generosity of John and Heidi Niblack to honor Charles Chu, Emeritus Professor of Chinese, and to provide a home and exhibition space for the growing collection of Asian art that Professor Chu has given to the library. It will also house a reference collection of books dealing with Asian art; and, as its name implies, it will provide a place on the Main Floor for something that the library has lacked: quiet reading and study space. John F. Niblack, Ph.D. is the Vice Chairman of Pfizer, Inc. and President of Pfizer Global Research and Development, but he is also a serious student and collector of Asian Art, hence his wish to support the renovation of Shain Library in this way.

The Chu-Griffis Collection of Asian Art has been one of the library's

Architect's rendering of view of Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room. Schwartz/Silver Architects.

"special" collections since 1987 and was first exhibited in 1988, when it consisted of only nine scrolls. Through the generosity of New London attorney Hughes Griffis and the Griffis Foundation as well as the contributions of many other friends and alumni, the

collection has grown to over 150 items. The art works range in date from the 16th to the late 20th centuries with a strong representation of contemporary Chinese artists. The collection itself has been housed in the Palmer Room in

From the VP's desk...

IT'S BEEN a challenging spring. But, for a moment, let's count our blessings and remember, in the words of Townes Van Zandt, "there ain't no dark, unless something shines. I'm bound to leave this dark behind." We in Information Services are shining — with new spaces, resources, and programs — and we're definitely leaving the dark behind.

First among our blessings is the extraordinary gift of John and Heidi Niblack to honor Charles Chu, Professor Emeritus of Chinese, allowing us to remodel part of the first floor of the Shain Library to house the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room. Aggie Gund, '60, has also made a significant contribution to this effort. Our summer and fall will be highlighted with the construction of a beautiful renovated space to house the Chu Griffis Asian Art Collection. We'll be working with the award-

ACRL Conference Starts and Finishes with Connecticut College

WHEN THE National Conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries met in Denver, Colorado on March 15-18, a new record for ACRL attendance was set.

Over 3,300 college and university librarians from around the country attended more than 200 programs and pre-conference meetings dealing with the impact of technology on the academic library. The title of the conference was "ACRL X: Crossing the Divide." Presentation topics ranged from digital media and networked information to the changing roles of librarianship.

Connecticut College was very much in evidence at the Denver Conference. Not only was Vice President for Information Services Lee Hisle the Executive Committee Chair of the conference but President Claire Gaudiani gave the final keynote address. According to Lee, "Her speech was very motivational and elicited a standing ovation from many of the attendees. She related our country's tradition of philanthropic giving as a precursor to wealth accumulation to our tradition of providing open access to information."

In addition to organizing the conference, Lee also gave a talk entitled "Academic Freedom and the Academic Library: The Necessity of Unrestricted Access to Internet Resources." Three Connecticut College Library staff members also attended the conference: Reference Librarians Kathy Gehring and Ashley Hanson; and Beth Hansen, Acquisitions/Media Librarian. According to Ashley, "As conference chair, Lee Hisle did a tremendous job in pulling together a diverse and inspiring group of presenters and programs."

The Connecticut College contingent was particularly interested in Information Literacy, which is a very hot topic for academic librarians. At the conference they were able to meet with colleagues from other institutions to discuss their programs and to exchange information. This aspect of the conference was especially valuable to them since Connecticut College is currently developing its own Information Literacy program.

Notable Books

MARIAN SHILSTONE, Director of Information Resources, has been a member of the Notable Books Council of the American Library Association since last year. The Council is made up of twelve librarians from different types of libraries and geographic regions. Each member serves for two years and attends the annual and mid-winter ALA conferences. Council members must also be prepared to read as many as 300 books a year!

The goal of the Council "is to make available to the nation's readers a list of 25 very good, very readable, and at times, very important fiction, nonfiction, and poetry books for the adult reader." The twelve members of the council identify and suggest books that meet the criteria for selection and submit their suggestions to the Council. A book may be considered "notable" if it meets the following criteria: it has exceptional literary merit; it broadens the horizons of human knowledge; it makes a specialized field of knowledge accessible to the general reader; it tries to contribute to the solution of a contemporary problem. Each book is considered in relation to the general adult reader and must have been published between November 1 of the preceding year and October 31 of the current year. Books are limited to titles published in the United States but may include translations and editions previously published abroad.

Once members of the Council identify a book that they believe to be notable, they submit a written nomination. Eventually 25 books are selected and the list is published. It becomes a useful tool for book selection at libraries around the country. The current list and more information about the selection process can be found at the Notable Books web site http://www.ala.org/rusa/notable_current.html. The list includes fiction by Margaret Atwood, Frederick Busch, J. M. Coetzee, Thomas King, Michael Ondaatje and Joy Williams; non-fiction such as Jacques Barzun's *From Dawn to Decadence*, Matt Ridley's *Genome* and Elaine Sciolino's *Persian Mirrors*; and poetry titles such as Seamus Heaney's translation of *Beowulf* and *The Collected Poems* of Stanley Kunitz.

Marian's participation in this important process has an additional benefit for Connecticut College. As a member of the Council, she was sent about 300 books for consideration. Many of these books are titles that the library would have bought anyway, but we have now added an additional 150 books to the Shain Library collection, all of which were under consideration by the Council. The "notables" will be featured in the New Book display in Shain Library during April, and all of them are available to the college community to check out at the circulation desk.

New Digital Curriculum Center in Blaustein

ALTHOUGH a first-time visitor to the College's new Digital Curriculum Center may be overwhelmed by the sight of all of the high-tech equipment and wiring, Information Services Fellow Frank Fulchiero is happy to show newcomers how to use all of these impressive systems to enhance their courses. Thanks to a grant from the Keel Foundation, the College was able to purchase the equipment needed to outfit the Center. Frank is the DCC's main coordinator and the man who you call when you would like to start a course project using the resources there. The lab has the capability of digitizing and streaming audio and video, scanning images for storage and access through the server, as well as the creation of PDF files for classes.

The center consists of two different computer groupings. The first grouping, for digital video work, is comprised of a G4 Mac and an IBM computer. Both of these are connected to a rack of video equipment containing digital video, laserdisc, 3/4 inch, VHS, and SVHS players that will transfer video to the computer for digitization. The second grouping, for graphics and audio, also offers both Mac and PC platforms and is configured for flatbed and slide scanning, and digitizing audio. The rack for the second set-up includes a turntable, CD, DAT, and tape players for audio output. You can also use a microphone and record the sound of your own voice, an exceptional tool for language courses.

Jörn Serbser, a German Teaching Assistant, and Marisa Castagno, Foreign Language Specialist, are working with Geoffrey Atherton to enhance his German 101 class to a new level by digitizing audio files and burning them onto a CD-ROM in a lesson format. A German 101 student can check out the CD from the language lab and use it on a computer. By clicking on a word, sentence or paragraph in the lesson, an audio file will play a recording of the word/words and will denote its grammatical value. There are already seven of these lessons on CD for Atherton's

students to consult.

Mingliang Hu, who teaches East Asian studies, is using the center's equipment to scan photographs from China and store them on the media server. These images will be used to familiarize students with the sites they will see while visiting Beijing, Guilin, and Shan-Xi this summer. Ming explained that the photos are also accessible to other colleges through the National Center for Educational Technology in Middlebury.

If you are a faculty member, or student working with a faculty member, who is interested in using the Center for creating materials that are curriculum related, please contact Frank Fulchiero at extension 5006, or stop by Blaustein 106 for a tour. You will soon discover that learning to use these software programs will not only provide you with a valuable asset for your courses, but it is also a lot of fun.

New Reading Room

Shain Library in custom-made cabinets but it has never had the permanent exhibition space that it deserves. The new Charles Chu Reading Room will solve that problem by providing specially designed freestanding cabinets to house a rotating display of scrolls and other items from the Chu-Griffis Art Collection.

In order to come up with an appropriate design for the new Reading Room, members of a selection committee defined a set of design criteria and presented a Request for Proposal to several recommended architectural firms. The selection committee consisted of Dr. Niblack, Professor Chu, Lee Hisle, Vice President for Information Services, faculty members Abigail Van Slyck and Ann Devlin, Laurie Deredita, Special Collections Librarian, Steven George, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction,

Chang Ta-ch'ien (1899-1983). Chu-Griffis Asian Art Collection.

and Bachman Clem '01. It met in March to consider the presentations of two architectural firms and to make a recommendation to the Select Committee of the Board of Trustees. The winner of this architectural mini-contest was the Boston-based firm of Schwartz/Silver Architects.

The selection committee felt that Schwartz/Silver had developed a design that best met its criteria. The design goals of the Schwartz/Silver proposal include the following: to create a serene, beautiful environment; to maintain the openness of the space while creating coherence and unity; to create a distinctive character for the room while relating it back to the library; to foreground the presence of the art while retaining views to the surrounding trees; and to intrigue and attract passersby. By emphasizing sim-

Library hours during exam period Spring Semester 2001

	SHAIN LIBRARY	GREER LIBRARY
Fri., May 11	8:00 am – 10:00 pm	8:30 am – 9:00 pm
Sat., May 12	9:00 am – 2:00 am	10:00 am – midnight
Sun., May 13	9:00 am – 2:00 am	1:00 pm – midnight
Mon - Wed, May 14 – 16	8:00 am – 2:00 am	8:30 am – midnight
Thurs., May 17	8:00 am – 2:00 am	8:30 am – 11:00 pm
Fri., May 18	8:00 am – 2:00 am	8:30 am – 9:00 pm
Sat., May 19	9:00 am – 2:00 am	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Sun., May 20	9:00 am – Midnight	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Mon., May 21	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Tues - Fri, May 22 – 25	8:30 am – 5:00 pm	8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Sat - Mon, May 26 – 28	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tues - Fri, May 29 - June 1	8:30 am – 4:00 pm	8:30 am – 4:00 pm

New Reading Room
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plicity, tranquility and elegance, the Schwartz/Silver concept implicitly references Asian design principles. More information about Schwartz/ Silver and the types of projects they have done in the past can be found at their web site http://www.schwartzsilver.com/

In order to accommodate the new Reading Room, a number of changes will be made to the Main Floor over the summer, including the rearrangement of the reference collection and the relocation of some of the computer clusters. The new room will occupy about 2500 square feet and provide more space for readers seated at tables with reading lamps or in comfortable lounge chairs. Softened lighting will be deployed not only for protection of the art but for the comfort of the readers. Construction of the Reading Room will begin soon after Commencement, with the disruptive phase of the work taking place over the summer. The room will be available for limited use by the college community in the early fall, although the project will not be complete until later in the semester.

Shain Goes Wireless

Two wireless computer networking areas have been set up in Shain Library. Students, faculty or staff can bring their own portable computers, if the computers are equipped with a wireless card, or they can borrow a laptop computer from the circulation desk to access the library's and the Internet's electronic resources. One of the wireless locations is outside the ATL on the lower level of the library. The other location is on the second floor and includes the area from the Haines Room to the center of the building.

Wireless network computing gives the library user the freedom to move around and use a computer in close proximity to library resources. By using wireless technology library users can consult the CTW catalog while they are in the stacks, or they can use Internet resources alongside relevant library print materials even though they are far away from network connections. Wireless connections allow people to work with computer information in small groups around a portable computer or individually in a carrel.

Keck/Hughes Grant to Support Information Services Technician

IN AUGUST 2000, Connecticut College was awarded a grant in the amount of $1.1 million from the Howard Hughes Medical Center and $500,000 from the W.M. Keck Foundation. The intent of the grant is to fund the exploration of emerging fields of scientific study. Some of the areas to be studied include epidemiology, nanotechnology, combinatorial chemistry and cognitive music theory. Information on these new areas will be brought to the campus through a series of visiting scholars who will work with faculty to incorporate the study of these fields into existing courses and lab work. During the four years of the grant there will be one or two visiting scholars per semester, each hosted by a Connecticut College faculty member. Over the course of their visits, the scholars are expected to prepare course materials for three lectures which can be presented in classes either by the scholar or the host faculty member.

To support the distribution of information developed through the Keck/Hughes program, the grant included funding for an Information Services Technician. The primary role of this position is to take the information and resources provided by the visiting scholars and convert it into a navigable format for distribution on CD-ROM. These course materials can then be distributed for use by the faculty here at Connecticut College and at other peer institutions.

In February, Tom Socash was hired to fill this four-year position as a member of the Instructional Technology team in Information Services. Tom comes to Connecticut College from Bloomsburg University and has an MS in Instructional Design. Some of Tom's responsibilities include digitizing and editing materials provided by the visiting experts, preparing the materials for use on the web, and designing and creating web sites that incorporate text and multimedia materials. In addition to working with the course materials, Tom is also creating a web site to support the Keck/Hughes project in its entirety.

DVDs in Shain Library collection

Shain Library now has a collection of DVDs available for the college community to borrow. The library began acquiring feature films in DVD format in 2000 and now has more than 150 titles. "What is a DVD?" A DVD (Digital Versatile Disc or Digital Video Disc) is a relatively new form of optical disc storage. It provides high-resolution images and quality sound. A DVD looks like a music CD, and is the same size. It can be played either on a DVD player connected to a television monitor or on a computer equipped with a DVD drive and sound card.

"What makes a DVD so great?" In addition to the obvious features of a high-resolution image and digital sound, it offers a wide screen picture that makes it more like a film you would see in the theater. DVDs also frequently include supplementary material such as interviews, theatrical trailers, "outtakes," or additional features. Different language tracks may also be available, which is especially useful for foreign films. Another advantage is that the DVD is smaller than the traditional VHS format, and it wears out less easily.

"How do I know what DVDs Shain has?" You can search the CTW library catalog using the keyword "videodisc" with your subject, actor, director or title. For example, the search terms "videodisc" and "woody allen" OR "videodisc" and "interiors" will tell you that Shain Library owns a copy of Woody Allen's film *Interiors* in DVD format. You also can browse the DVDs on the second floor of Shain. The DVD boxes are interfiled with the video collection alphabetically by title of film. Once you have the box for the one you want, bring it to the Circulation Desk and the DVD will be retrieved for you. A DVD may be charged out for eight days to faculty and staff, three days for students. There are four DVD viewing stations in Shain Library. These are available on a first come first serve basis. If you need help finding a particular DVD title ask the Reference Librarian on duty to help you.

Help Desk FAQs

Q: Why won't my computer turn on?
A: The answer to this question varies greatly, however we recommend the following procedures: 1. Make sure the power strip or surge protector is turned on. 2. Make sure that all power cables are plugged in to your machine and your monitor.

Q: Why is the student network so slow?
A: The reason for this also varies greatly, however usually it has to do with users downloading or sharing big files such as music and movies. Network slowdown also occurs when users run programs such as NAPSTER, IMESH, GNUETTLA, and HOTLINE server.

Q: Can you give me a phone number or connect me with someone?
A: College directory assistance questions can best be answered by the College Switchboard, extension 2000.

Q: How do I open an attachment?
A: If you are using PINE to access your e-mail, the easiest solution to this problem is to begin using OUT-LOOK/OUTLOOK Express. This product has a wonderful graphical interface and provides a very easy way to send and receive attachments.

Q: What should I do if my computer has a virus?
A: If you think that your computer has a virus it is imperative that you update your anti-virus program immediately. As a preventative measure we strongly recommend that you update your virus protection at least twice a month.

Q: May I borrow a CD or can you install some software for me?
A: We will gladly install your software on your machine if you provide a legal copy of the software to us. We do not allow users to borrow our CDs with the following exceptions: 1. Faculty and staff of the college may borrow any MICROSOFT product covered under the campus agreement and make one copy for home use; 2. Any member of the campus community including students may borrow a "HELP CENTER LOANER" CD. This CD includes software that is free for download such as NETSCAPE, INTERNET EXPLORER, WINZIP and MCAFEE VIRUS SCAN.

Visit the Help Desk Web Page for directions about downloading programs, upgrading your virus software, and answers to many other computer questions. http://www.conncoll.edu/is/help/

INFORMATION SERVICES

From the VP's desk…

winning architectural firm, Schwartz/Silver Architects from Boston, to design the space.

Among other activities brightening our days is a renewed emphasis on information literacy instruction integrated into the curriculum. An IS task force is engaged in planning strategies to ensure Connecticut College students are "information fluent" before they leave the college. We in IS note that students have become technically proficient in using computers to access the Internet, yet they lack the ability to effectively find, evaluate and use information appropriate to their needs.

We also have plans to increase network speed by adding three more T-1 lines over the summer, more than doubling our capacity. In addition, new network devices will be added to improve access speed in several residence halls. And our new bandwidth shaping software and intrusion detection software has increased network capacity and security. (Several potentially dangerous attacks have been thwarted with the new software.)

Among new resources added recently is a collection of more than 7,400 electronic books provided by NetLibrary. In the arts, we have recently introduced the electronic versions of the Grove Dictionary of Art and the Grove Dictionary of Music. New subscriptions are in place as well; Science Direct, a standard electronic indexing and full-text database that provides access to scientific literature, has been heavily used since it was added this past fall. In addition, we plan to initiate a subscription to the Web of Science, a relatively new product that provides electronic access to the Science Citation Index and Social Science Citation index along with links to related works from multiple disciplines. Mastery of these science databases is essential for students seeking advanced degrees or careers in the sciences.

We're shining in Information Services. Dark shadows are seeking other quarters.