

10-11-2006

Inside Information Fall 2006

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Recommended Citation

"Inside Information Fall 2006" (2006). *Inside Information*. Paper 13.
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inside information

INFORMATION SERVICES @ CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Fall 2006

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Professor Solomon's film donation on page 6.



The Digital Enhanced Learning Initiative (DELI)

DELI (yum!) is a pilot project begun in Fall 2006 with several Freshman Seminars. The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and IS hope to learn how providing freshmen with student-centered technologies to complete course assignments can enhance the curriculum.



Proposals from faculty teaching five Freshman Seminars were selected to participate in the pilot project in which each student and the faculty member receives a digital pocket camera or a video iPod. So distribute 16 cameras or 16 iPods to the 16 students enrolled in each course, and what do you get? The five projects are presently in-progress. But here's what seems to be evolving.

Recent English Fiction and Culture from 1980 to the Present, taught by Prof. Michael Reder. Students are using iPods for playback of music, exactly what you'd expect. But wait, there's more. Art images, film clips, and historic speeches also are being downloaded for course review. Students are orally reciting their responses to reading assignments. And they are dictating the texts for their papers that they later will type. They are talking to themselves, but in a sane and healthy way.

Dropping the Bomb, taught by Prof. Alexis Dudden. Students are collecting and downloading onto their iPods video, audio, and text files from various web sites (American, Japanese and European). These websites offer personal narratives spoken by survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki or historical analysis from various scholars and journalists. In addition, the students are creating projects which include gathering videos and music and creating interviews.

Food in Art, Culture and Cinema, taught by Prof. Chris Steiner. Students are using pocket cameras to create a food journal of everything they eat for two weeks. Meals at Harris may never again look the same after this. Students also will document their family Thanksgiving dinners, that is, if their moms will allow them. These photos promise to be pictur-



esque, and potentially will be mounted onto a website for public viewing. The photography assignments are in addition to their conventional reading and writing workloads. The students will have a lot on their plates.

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Message from the VP

A new academic year is always a pleasurable time, somehow spring-like. We see new students, new faculty, and this year a new president on our beautiful campus. Perhaps you've noticed something else new this year—ten red chairs and six shiny tables in front of the Shain Library. We picked red chairs to brighten up the library's understated exterior, and to prevent theft, as we thought red chairs would stand out. (At this writing, only nine chairs remain, so the "red strategy" apparently didn't succeed.) The chairs and tables were an immediate hit with

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the students. They are pulling tables together and studying in groups. Some are reading the paper and eating a snack. Some are simply enjoying a break in the fresh air. I've seen a few groovin' in the sun with iPods. Others are just hanging out, or people watching, or chatting with friends. Laptops are open, the latte is on hand, and the wireless network is in use. One student was even trying

to read in the dark around 9 one night using the landscape lights for illumination.

This might be a stretch, but it seems to me that the use of these tables and chairs is, on a micro level, reflective of what is needed in a future Shain Library expansion. Group study space is essential for modern academic libraries; pedagogical trends have shifted and students often work together on assignments. Good libraries have casual study, social, and naturally lit spaces that allow for conversation and relaxation to reenergize a study session. Academic libraries are becoming information commons – with access to food and drink, modern instructional technology, and wireless network access. And libraries are increasingly intellectual social centers on campuses where students meet their friends while studying. Sadly, the red chairs and shiny tables will only be available for about another month—when it gets too cold to sit outside comfortably, we'll store them until next spring. Come springtime, however, watch for the flowers and the red chairs to emerge from their winter's sleep.

*W. Lee Hisle
Vice President for Information Services*



Students Alex Lanstein and Michael Meade in front of the Shain Library reading.

The Digital Enhanced Learning Initiative

continued from page 1



Professor Alexis Dudden with students and iPods.

Designing the Body, taught by Profs. Abby Van Slyck and Andrea Wollensak. Students are capturing both video clips and still images and then will use the CEIL lab to learn the rudiments of image processing. They are examining and documenting how things fit: the human body



Professor Jeff Singer introduces cameras.

Identity: Psychological and Literary Perspectives, taught by Prof. Jefferson Singer. Students are using cameras to document their many vignettes as first semester freshmen are adjusting to their new lives on campus. Their final presentations likely will include a multi-media show of the stories of their personal narratives. Some of these eventually may be presented next semester during Common Hour as part of the theme "First Year Students' Adjustment to Conn College," so those little cameras will go a long way.

At the completion of each course, the students either will return their student-centered technologies or will keep them in exchange for participating in future

surveys. Such surveys will inform how they used the tools during their continuing years at the college, and will guide future uses of emerging technologies. If CTL and IS judge the project successful, grant funding will be sought to continue and expand the program for Fall 2007. The good news is: some students already have expressed their enthusiasm for the project, and said they gladly would enroll in other Freshmen Seminars. The bad news is: upon their return to campus next year, as seasoned sophomores they will be ineligible to enroll in Freshmen Seminars.



New Book Shelf

You may have noticed that the New Book Shelf moved during the summer. No longer crammed in the corner of the basement, it now resides right across from the Blue Camel Café where you can easily scan the library's newest offerings as you enjoy some fresh brewed coffee, even if you are on the run.

In addition to the "new" New Book Shelf, we now also have two thematic book areas. Both are on the main floor of Shain Library, one close to the Reference Desk and the other closer to the Main Office at the back of the building. These areas are used for displaying books and films that cover "hot topics" or monthly celebratory themes. In September, one area was dedicated to Latino Heritage Month. If you have any suggestions or requests for theme displays, just contact any library staff member with your idea.

The Wizard of Oz Goes to San Diego

During the summer—heavily insured and carefully packed—one of the treasures of the Helen O. Gildersleeve Children's Literature Collection in Shain Library, a copy of L. Frank Baum's classic *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, published in 1900, was flown to California. There it is on loan to San Diego State University through February 12, 2007 for the library exhibition "The Writer's Muse: The Hotel del Coronado and L. Frank Baum." The copy that belongs to Shain Library's Special Collections is pretty "special" since it is a first issue of the first edition and it was used by CBS in 1956 for the first television broadcast of the film "Wizard of Oz" hosted by Bert Lahr.



The "cowardly lion" drawn by W. W. Denslow.

More Classroom Renovations in 2006

This summer the college renovated four more classrooms as part of the Classroom Improvement Plan for flexible, effective spaces for teaching and learning. The room renovations included new carpeting, adjustable lighting, comfortable chairs, tables, and many technological resources. From a small podium, the

renovation. Blaustein 203 provides a new style of classroom: a totally flexible lecture room. All tables and chairs are on wheels so they can be rearranged to accommodate the needs of the class. The Bartlett family, Marshall and Margaret Bartlett P'93,'97, John Bartlett '93, and Stephen Bartlett '97, provided the funding



Classroom layout of Blaustein Humanities Center, Room 212 before the renovation.

presenter can project a transparency, paper document, DVD, videotape, or anything accessible through a computer. Instructional Technologists are working with faculty to provide new digital resources including maps, for use both within the classrooms and through ConnCourse, the web-based course management system. Generous funding from Connecticut College alums made these renovations possible.

Blaustein 212, now a next generation seminar room, retains a Chinese flair that can be appreciated by all classes using the room. Returning students said they are very pleased and they can hardly believe it's the same room. Nancy and John Alderman, both graduates of the class of 1976, funded this

for this renovation. Bill 307 was transformed from a vintage 1939 tiered lecture room with fixed tablet armchairs into a flexible lecture hall or seminar room. In addition to removing the tiers, the room was reoriented, so that a large wall now serves as the front of the room, allowing simultaneous use of more resources. The Class of 1981 funded this renovation.

The classrooms in Cummings reflect the 1960s style of the building. Cummings 307 had contained bright orange plastic tablet armchairs, connected in compact rows. The fixed furniture has been replaced by comfortable and flexible tables and chairs. Adjustments are being made to accommodate the unique needs

Classroom Renovation continued

of the Art History faculty, who frequently teach in this room. Cynthia Rehm '54 and former Trustee and her husband Jack, provided the support for this renovation.

These four classrooms provide Connecticut College with wonderful spaces fostering both traditional and new styles of teaching and learning.



Classroom layout of Blaustein Humanities center, Room 212 after the renovation.

Blue Camel Café Expansion

Take a walk to the lower level of Shain Library and check out the bigger and better Blue Camel Café. During the summer the café was expanded in response to student requests for more group study space. Four new booths were added that include flat screen monitors for use with laptops as well as two additional

computer workstations. All of the new seating areas offer access to the campus computer network via both wireless and cable connections.

In addition to the new indoor seating areas, six tables and ten chairs have been installed outdoors by the main entrance to the library. So grab an iced coffee and enjoy the waning days of summer. As weather turns cool, settle in downstairs at the café with a cup of soup and enjoy the new space.

Identity Theft

This year dozens of colleges have faced the disruption and expense of responding to a theft of computers or files that contain personal information. Colleges are “prime targets” for criminal identity theft attempts because so much personal information is stored on college servers. Many if not all of these losses could have been prevented if the individuals had taken security precautions to protect their computer and data.

In order to safeguard the faculty, students, and staff that use the campus network and Connecticut College electronic resources, Information Services has installed a number of devices and programs that protect the computer network and data servers. IS has also provided anti-virus software, implemented anti-spam screening, and required the use of strong passwords. However, an individual who fails to take prudent measures to prevent loss or theft of data can negate all our safeguards. One person's lapse in upholding security could jeopardize many campus users and alumni.

The senior administrators recognize the severity of the threat of data loss and have approved an Information Security Awareness policy whereby, “all new Connecticut College faculty and new and current staff members who use campus or college-owned computer resources or networks must complete an Information Services information security awareness orientation class that offers information security education to protect college and personal electronic information. Current employees who have not completed the information security awareness orientation class will be limited to Banner Self-Service on the Banner administrative system. New faculty and staff members are required to attend a one-hour class within two months of their employment that provides an overview on how to minimize the risk of losing valuable and sensitive information stored on college-owned or home computers.”

Information Services is offering these required one-hour security awareness classes throughout the fall. The schedule is posted on CamelWeb at <http://training.conncoll.edu>.

There are nine classes scheduled from October to December. You can register online at <<http://training.conncoll.edu>> or by calling the Information Services Training Manager at telephone extension 5127.

Luce Foundation Gift

A grant from the Luce Foundation's "Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum" project contributed toward creating an image database of the artworks in the Chu-Griffis Art Collection. During the summer, director of special collections and archives Laurie Deredita and visual resources librarian Mark Braunstein worked with art history graduate student Rebecca Proctor to photograph the collection, which including recent acquisitions now numbers over 250 scrolls and framed works. The image database will enhance the Chu-Griffis Collection website, and will be used for scholarship, for instruction, and for just plain art appreciation. While the new images are not yet uploaded, the existing website can be viewed at www.conncoll.edu/is/info-resources/special-collections/chu

Film Gift from Janis Solomon

A large collection of films described as a “veritable smorgasbord of delectable morsels” has been given to Shain Library by Janis L. Solomon, Lucretia L. Allyn Professor Emeritus of German. The films in DVD and VHS formats are presently being accessioned, but most are already listed in Caravan, the Library’s on-line database. Professor Solomon’s generous gift expands our film holdings tremendously, adds support to film studies courses and, best of all, are fun to watch.



Shain Library Exhibition

October 2–November 22: Auspicious Beginnings: Presidential Inaugurations at Connecticut College (1915–2006)

Timed to accompany the installation of Lee Higdon as our 10th president on October 14, this exhibition will trace the history.

Hope for the Best but Plan for the Worst

Or as they said in Old London in 1565, “Good is I grant of all to hope the best, But not to belie still dread of the worst.” (from Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs, sort of)

Technical Support staff of IS every day labors behind the scenes to maintain the computer network, phone system, and servers. This past summer, they labored under and over and in between the scenes

too, installing hardware and software to avert emergencies that might crash or otherwise imperil the systems.

To reduce the risk of loss of email service and of actual email messages in the event of a system crash, the staff installed a second Storage Area Network (SAN) system to provide added capacity to the first SAN system. WebCT course material also benefits from this safeguard second SAN system.

In the future, the college may also use the new SAN to back-up faculty and staff desktop computers. (But until this happens, and even if this happens, you still must backup your own data yourself!) Meanwhile the network staff has implemented FilesX, a software program for backing up data and for restoring lost or degraded data, including emails and web-sites. The web staff and the network staff also developed an emergency off-campus communications website to resort to during a power failure oncampus.

Additionally, Physical Plant installed an emergency backup generator for the network and servers in Bill Hall and for the telephone system in Fanning Hall. The critical campus data servers and switches located in Bill and Fanning need electricity the way we need air. A power outage or slippage or surge can result in irretrievable loss of data and irreparable damage to equipment. The new generator will greatly reduce such risks.

It was a busy summer for the IS staff. Installing the second SAN and backup generator, implementing FilesX, and creating the off-site website were only a few of the components that now increase the security and enhance the reliability of network, email, voicemail, and data systems. (But you still must backup your own data yourself!)

Archie, The Eternal Student

This fall, students sequestered in the southeast quiet corner of the main level of Shain Library have been joined by a new classmate. Lurking among this reading area’s comfy chairs, but never seen seated, stands Archie. He garnered that nickname on account of his arched back, a pose that some sources attribute to a skiing accident. That rumor might have some basis in fact, because Archie is actually a nearly life-size bronze sculpture, and Alex Fordeen, the sculptor, comes from hilly and snowy Stowe, Vermont.

A Class of 2006 art major, Alex first exhibited Archie in the Senior Show in Cummings Arts Center. Alex never called him Archie, instead titling it “Before the Rally of Spirit,” possibly symbolic and certainly more poetic than “Archie,” but what do artists know.

Some professors and librarians call it “The Eternal Student,” yet another alternate title, and that too has some basis in

fact. Surrounded by other artworks, The Eternal Student served as a centerpiece for the Senior Show in May. But well into June, long after other graduating seniors had packed up and carted home all their artworks, Archie the Eternal Student continued to stand sentinel in the empty lobby of Cummings, ever basking in the summer sun streaming from the skylight, ever dutiful at his solitary post.

Now resettled in his new home in Shain, Archie has been leased from Alex for five years. A new lease on life. The Eternal Student has matriculated anew as an undergraduate for four more years, and is already anticipating one year of graduate work. So that might explain why he arches backwards and looks out the window. Resting his eyes during the day, he refocuses to a distant scene outdoors. Because at night, The Eternal Student suffers eyestrain from all those late study hours in Shain Library.



New Sprint Tower



Sprint wireless subscribers can expect improved connectivity with the installation of a new antenna on the roof of Shain Library. Contractors worked through the month of August to install the new equipment. The antenna was successfully tested in early September and, according to Sprint, should be functional by the end of the month. The new antenna will improve reception for Sprint subscribers in the area. Since the library sits on the highest point of college land, the increase in coverage should be evident well beyond the northern end of campus.

Online Access to The Chronicle

Now available to all faculty, students and staff: Online access to The Chronicle of Higher Education!

The Chronicle of Higher Education is the No. 1 source of news, information, and jobs for college and university faculty members and administrators.

Male and Female: Figure Paintings by Lei Ziren

Chinese artist Lei Ziren will bring his work to Connecticut College for a show in the Chu Room in November. Already known in his own country for his “non-

mainstream” style, this will be Lei’s first solo show in the United States. Although Lei is a traditional ink painter his work is inspired by contemporary Chinese urban life, influenced by Western modern art movements and the new painting styles developing in China. Lei’s work focuses largely on the female figure and his paintings, in which the colors beige, brown and ochre predominate, are sensual and sometimes erotic.



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 Deredita, editor, at lmder@conncoll.edu. Past issues can be read online on Digital Commons@Connecticut College <http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/isnews/>

Information Services Public Relations Committee: Melissa Behney, Mark Braunstein, Marisa Castagno, Laurie Deredita, Kevin DiMinno, Kathy Gebring, Amy Hannum, Ashley Hanson, Jeanne Pasqualini. Design and layout by Janet Hayes. Special thanks to contributing writers Chris Penniman and Bruce Carpenter.

