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inside information

INFORMATION SERVICES @ CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Spring 2007

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The Librarians Support the CISLA Program

The Library Mentor Program was developed in 1990 by Connecticut College librarians to support the Senior Integrative Projects (SIP) of the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and Liberal Arts (CISLA). As

each CISLA scholar to a librarian, pairing them for their similar interests or areas of expertise. CISLA scholars develop research topics for their SIPs, and their Library Mentors guide them in the creation of their annotated bibliographies.



Jim MacDonald assists student Elizabeth Greenman '07 with her research.



Elizabeth C. Greenman during her study in China.

sophomores, CISLA scholars enroll in IS 201, Perspectives on Modern Global Society and then they are assigned a Library Mentor to teach them research skills. During the 16 years of the CISLA program, Library Mentors have served nearly 500 students and the program has been lauded as a huge success. Mary Devins, Associate Director of CISLA, says "We are very appreciative, and I think that our library mentors are underpraised." And the librarians have been very enthusiastic about working with the CISLA students.

Reference and instruction librarian Jim MacDonald is the present director of the Library Mentor Program. He matches

"The program keeps students on track with their research and inspires them to think about their SIP. It teaches them critical analysis," says Katie McCormack, the Internship Coordinator at CISLA.

As part of the CISLA program, scholars complete overseas internships during the summer between their junior and senior years. Most CISLA scholars also study abroad for one or two semesters, usually during their junior years, and often consult with their Library Mentors via email. Many students refine and change their topics after studying abroad, but the skills that they have learned during the mentor program carry over in their research for their revised or new SIPs.



Message from the VP

Margaret Wheatley once said that change should be a dance — not a forced march. As you'll note from reading this issue of Inside Information, Information Services is planning for significant change, even as we celebrate the stability represented by the 30th anniversary of the Charles E. Shain Library.

The dance of change continues
and we in IS will be doing our
best to keep the beat and not
stumble over our feet during the
next few months.

Two key and trusted members of the Shain Library staff have each announced retirements at the end of the year. Between them Marian Shilstone, Director of Information Resources, and Sandy Morse, Cataloguer, have over 70 years of experience at Connecticut College. Their knowledge of library and college operations is extensive and their commitment to making the Connecticut College library the best it could be is exemplary.


In addition, we have just posted positions to replace Mike Friscia, Senior Web Programmer, and Brian Walsh, Database Administrator and Information Security Officer, each of whom has decided to take advantage of new opportunities outside the college. All of these individuals will be missed — they each have contributed to the success of Information Services with their

outstanding knowledge, service orientation and can-do attitude. And though we will miss them, their loss will offer the opportunity — possibly unsettling, certainly invigorating — for organizational change in Information Services.

To help with a smooth transition, I am happy to report that Beth Hansen has agreed to replace Marian as Director of Information Resources and that Melissa Behney will accept the position of Director of Research Support and Instruction. I am very pleased that we have these two excellent, experienced librarians who will maintain the continuity of our operations even as they seek opportunities for innovation in their new roles.

To bring fresh ideas into the organization, two new librarian openings have been posted using the vacant position lines. The first, Technical Services and Systems Librarian, will oversee Connecticut College's relationship with the CTW integrated library system, as well as offer leadership in adopting new digital bibliographic tools in the library. The Instruction Coordinator and Outreach Librarian will offer leadership in coordinating our library instruction program and in working with campus entities such as CISLA, Unity House and the Writing Center to integrate library service opportunities into their programming. In addition, Kathy Gehring, Research Support and Instruction Librarian, will take on new leadership responsibilities to research and integrate Web2 technologies into digital library services. Finally, Diane Bullock, Assistant to the Senior Administrator, will expand her role in IS and begin collecting and reporting data to external agencies.

The dance of change continues and we in IS will be doing our best to keep the beat and not stumble over our feet during the next few months.



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

Director of Information Resources Marian Shilstone retires

“Hold for Gertrude Noyes please.” This response could be heard coming from the Office of the Dean in June 1966. The voice behind the greeting was none other than Dean Noyes’ assistant Marian Shilstone. A few years later, after attending library school full time and spending a summer at Rutgers University, Marian could be found by following the “clack clack clack” sound of a manual typewriter in her new position as assistant serials librarian in Palmer Library. Why was she making all that noise? She was compiling a list of all the journal holdings by hand and typewriter. No wonder Marian feels that one of the biggest changes she has seen at the college “has been how computers have transformed our work and allowed us to provide greatly enhanced access to information resources.” Full-text searching and expanded access to inter-library loan materials through World

Cat have been particularly valuable in moving us from a strictly “ownership of materials” model to a much broader

at the college, she recalled a concert in Palmer Auditorium by the Philadelphia Orchestra and led by Eugene Ormandy in the late 60s or early 70s. “It was stunning” she said.



Marian orders books from publisher's catalog.

“access to information” model.

When Marian was asked about the most memorable event she had attended

After she leaves the college, Marian will be found cleaning her garage and attic or in Florida during the winter months. Her departing words for her colleagues — “I would like to say how much I will miss seeing all of my colleagues on a daily basis. They are an extraordinary group of talented and dedicated individuals and have been a wonderful source of support and friendship over the years. The College as a whole

has been a central part of my life for 40 years and I look forward to following its progress in the years ahead.”

Cataloguer Sandy Morse to retire in June

In 1964 The Warren Commission delivered its final report, Dr. Martin Luther King received the Nobel Peace Prize, IBM introduced the system 360 computer, the Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show and Sandy Morse started working part-time in the Palmer Library (now the Blaustein Humanities Center). After taking time out to have children, Sandy returned to the college as a cataloguer, just in time for the dramatic move to the new Shain Library.

Her career in the library also coincided with the advent of the computer. In 1972 her department started using a computer to order bibliographic records from OCLC, and saw a huge gain in work efficiency. Planning started for an online public access catalog system to be shared with Trinity College and Wesleyan University in the 1980s and Sandy, along with other staff, had an exciting time

planning for the data load and a massive project to barcode every book in the stacks before the database went live in 1988.

When asked about the biggest change she has seen at the college since her first day of work, she replied “watching the college move through the change to a co-ed, college during the radical ’70s and gradually settle into a new identity.” Because of this change Sandy’s oldest son Will was able to enroll at Connecticut College and graduated with the Class of 1987.

Sandy wants everyone to know that “Connecticut College has been a very satisfying part of my life for the past forty years, and I will miss the day-to-day contact but hope to stay connected by attending college

events, and, of course, browse at my leisure in the library.” When she retires in July she will be able to spend more time with her hobbies, grandchildren and traveling, but leaves with warm good wishes



Sandy incorporates a new donation of books into Shain's collections.

for the future of the college. Sandy will be missed by her colleagues but we all wish her the best in her new adventures.

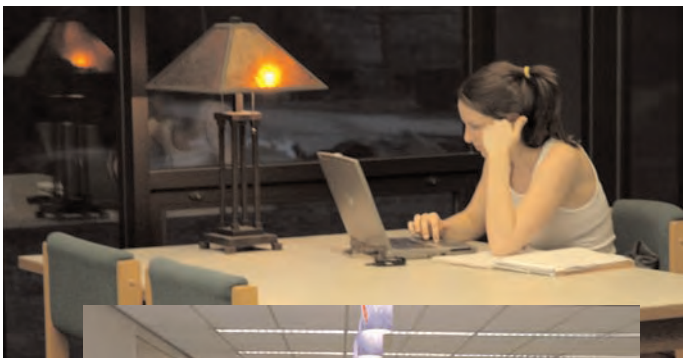
TALES of the NIGHT CRYPT, or, All Night

December 2006 marked the third year that Shain Library remained open 24 hours a day during finals. To keep the library open for the additional hours, library staff members volunteer to work from 2 a.m. to 8 a.m., with two people on duty each night. Every two hours one of them tours the building to monitor activity. While prudence and discretion dictate that they not divulge their complete findings, here is what they are willing to share this year.

The peak hour was 3 a.m. and the quietest was 7 a.m. The main floor was the busiest, and the Blue Camel Café a close second. The average number of all-nighter students was 90, and the final night, Sunday, was the busiest. From December 14 to 18, a total of 9,366 people walked through the front door. Independent sources were unable to confirm if all of them also walked back out.

Since the 24-hour program started as a pilot program in 2004, the number of students taking advantage of the extended hours has remained relatively constant. But for the students, it appears that the initial thrill of those first overnights has faded. Gone are the tents, sleeping bags and campfires that marked the first semester. This semester the staff on duty noted that the building was very quiet throughout the night, with most students working diligently in carrels on all levels of the building.

Clearly what started as an experiment three years ago is here to stay.



Namita Sekhar

Namita Sekhar was born and raised in India and came to the United States in 2003 for college. She spent her high school years in a small boarding school up on a mountain in South India and adjusted easily to her transatlantic relocation to Connecticut. She chose Connecticut College because of its close-knit campus and small faculty-to-student ratio, which she felt would give her a personalized learning experience. She also



Namita at work in the visual resources Library.

felt that Conn would provide the perfect environment to pursue her lifelong love of art in a way that would involve other disciplines, and she finally chose an Art major with a concentration

in Graphic Design, so that she could develop her creative and rational faculties simultaneously.

Design fascinates her, she says, because “it involves coming up with a visual solution or system for information that is not always easy to envision.” Her love of words and literature, along with her discovery of Conn’s excellent English Department, propelled her to declare her additional major in English a year later. Namita’s position in the Visual Resources Library puts her Photoshop skills to good use, and she also enjoys the responsibility of building gallery websites for the college. She has designed a website that showcases campus sculpture and is currently working on a new website design for the library’s Chu-Griffis Art Collection. She says, “my job at Visual Resources is like a design workout session, allowing me to flex my creative muscles while constantly exercising the basics so I don’t fall out of practice.”

As a child, Namita was nicknamed the “I’ll-Do-It Kid” by her parents for always volunteering to do everything, and could be counted on to keep herself busy at all times. As a college senior, she continues to be in a constant state of activity; in addition to working in the Visual Resources Library, Namita works at the Box Office, designs posters for Theater Department productions, and is the Head Usher for all of the OnStage performances at Connecticut College. She hopes that her two majors, along with her extracurricular work, will open up possibilities for employment in advertising, graphic design, or brand management. Namita is excited about graduating in May, and feels confident about the giant upcoming leap into the next chapter of her life.

Nate Hinman

My name is Nate Hinman, class of 2007. I have been working at the Circulation Desk in Shain Library through work-study since the first week of my freshman year. I chose to work for Information Services to become as knowledgeable as possible about the workings of Connecticut College’s library. I am glad to say that I have learned a lot over the years. My library experience has made me an asset in group research assignments, and my friends refer to me if they have questions about the library.

Over the summer before my junior year I was lucky enough to work in Shain Library, staying on campus. IS paid for my room and board for the summer and offered me a very reasonable wage for my assistance with the various projects taking place. At that time the library was prioritizing materials and removing print copies of journals that were also available electronically through JSTOR. The purpose of this was to efficiently maximize space for new library acquisitions.

Outside of IS, I am a Sociology and Government double-major, with a minor in Philosophy. During the spring of my junior year I participated in the SATA South Africa study abroad program with Professor Zimmer. My decision to study abroad

was the most exciting and rewarding endeavor here at Connecticut College. On campus I play for the Club Ultimate Frisbee team. Look for the team to be holding a tag sale in Cro in late February or early March to raise money for a Spring Break trip to play at an annual tournament held in Savannah, Georgia.



Nate charges out a book for his classmate Cornelius Hardenbergh, '07.

Cooperative Collection Development

Scholarly books on specialized topics are the greatest expense in the academic library acquisitions budget. Yet these books are important contributions to scholarship that should be readily available to faculty and students. In order to relieve the strain on acquisitions budgets but at the same time to assure that such monographs are available within the CTW Consortium, we are piloting co-operative collection development.

This project aims to minimize the duplication of such monographs across the consortium. Why buy three copies of an expensive and esoteric book with a limited readership when one copy will suffice for all three CTW members? The money that is saved could fund other book purchases, thus enhancing the scope of CTW library holdings.

For the pilot project, the collection development librarians of all three institutions are working with our major book vendor, Yankee Book Peddler (YBP), to compile a list of publishers whose titles consistently cost \$85 or more. So far, this has been limited to the humanities. At Connecticut College, the collection development librarian Marian Shilstone decides which items to purchase from this

category, and librarians at the other CTW institutions are doing likewise. Next, YBP will analyze the results and issue a report indicating duplicate purchases. In March,

worked on a co-operative collection development project that is based on cost rather than on subject. The collection development librarians believe that all



Some books purchased by Connecticut college within the cooperative collection development project.

the three librarians will convene to study the report and to decide how thereafter to share the purchase of costly titles.

This is the first time that YBP has

three libraries still must maintain strong core collections. But this is an opportunity to increase the total number of scholarly titles available within the consortium.

Microsoft Vista and Microsoft Office 2007

Microsoft released the new Vista operating system and Office 2007 for general purchase in February 2007. Information Services Technical Support recommends that students, faculty and staff DO NOT upgrade to Vista and Office 2007 at this time.

All new software has bugs and compatibility issues. It usually requires several months to a year to identify and resolve

these problems. IS wants to ensure that the transition to these new products will not disrupt your work. We have formed a committee to identify software, network, and peripheral compatibility problems, and we are reviewing hardware requirements.

If you choose to install Office 2007 on your home computer, you might confront compatibility issues with the existing

documents and files. Users of an earlier version of Office might not be able to open or save documents created in Office 2007. Information Services Technical Support will NOT install these new products on faculty or staff computers until the summer of 2007 or thereafter. Until then, very limited support will be available from the Help Desk for either Microsoft Vista or Office 2007.

Shain Library's Spring Exhibits

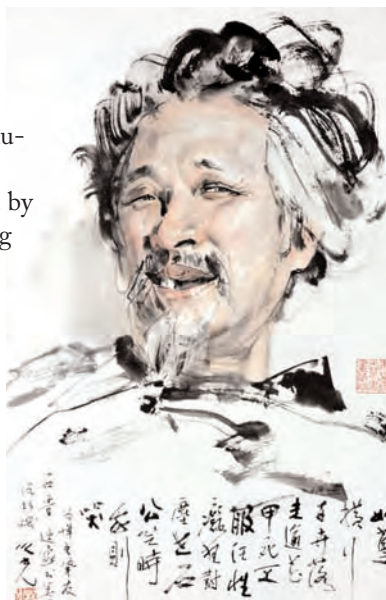
Keep an eye out for some interesting Spring exhibitions in Shain Library! Please check the college calendar for details about the dates and times of opening events.

The library will again host the Holleran Center for Community Action's annual Exhibiting Activism exhibit from March 26 through April 27. This year the theme will be responses to the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

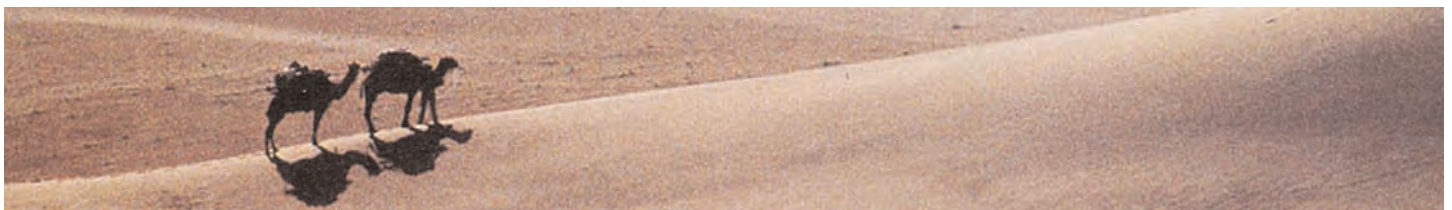


Starting in May there will be an exhibition of library photographs and other documents from the College Archives to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Shain Library.

Masters of 20th Century Chinese Art from the Chu-Griffis Collection is the name of the show created by students in Professor Ning Qiang's Modern Chinese Art course.



Visual Memory of the Silk Road: Photographs by Wu Jian featuring many stunning color images taken by the chief of the photography department of the Dunhuang Research Academy will begin in April. Wu Jian will be here from China for the opening and gallery talk.



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/>.

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