Library Hosts Open Access Panel and Celebration of Faculty Work

THIS PAST OCTOBER, Shain Library staff members hosted the inaugural Celebration of Faculty Scholarly and Creative Work, the first such event of its kind for the campus. The event, which was co-sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Faculty, stemmed from the desire to celebrate and highlight the diverse work that faculty are producing and publishing, along with an interest in raising awareness about the current situation in scholarly publishing. Accordingly, the event took place in two parts: first, there was a faculty panel discussion about scholarly communication and open access materials, and second, staff held a reception and celebration in which faculty work was displayed in numerous ways.

In the panel discussion, titled “Scholarly Communication Is Everyone’s Business,” four faculty members discussed the extent to which open access materials should be published, evaluated, incorporated into classes, and factored into tenure decisions. The discussion highlighted the dilemma that libraries and scholars face as subscription costs rise far ahead of the rate of inflation, and profits rise for some publishers, who often hold monopolies on important journals and thus can set prices extremely high, impairing access and opportunity. Open access materials would seem to offer some redress for this situation, but they come with their own issues; for instance, under many open access plans the author pays to publish an article instead of the library paying for a subscription for that research, but this often results in the inequity being shifted instead of eliminated.

The panelists, including Luis González, professor of Hispanic studies; Purba Mukerji, associate professor of economics; Maria Rosa, assistant professor of biology; and Marc Zimmer, professor of chemistry, were invited based in part on their advocacy for or utilization of open access materials, and offered insights on the scholarly communication ecosystem that were drawn from their own experiences. In addition, more than a dozen faculty attended the discussion, and many contributed questions as well as observations to the discussion. Ben Panciera, Ruth Rusch Sheppe ’40 Director of Special Collections & Archives, and the administrator of the College's institutional repository of scholarly materials, provided attendees with an introduction and overview of the scholarly publishing situation, and Fred Folmer, director of collections & resource management, moderated the discussion.

Following the panel event, faculty and Information Services staff members joined for refreshments, conversations and displays of faculty work in the library’s Living Room space. One of the most talked-about displays was a multimedia presentation, presented on a video monitor, of faculty creative work in the arts. In addition, there were numerous posters, including an overview of faculty scholarship provided by the Office of Institutional Research, as well as a display of faculty-authored books. Faculty and staff who attended the celebration found it to be engaging and informative, and we in the library are looking forward to hosting this event annually.

— Fred Folmer
AS INFORMATION SERVICES continues to develop the IS Strategic Plan 2020-2023 an initial draft has been shared with key constituencies in the College for comment. Members of the IS staff (who contributed many of the ideas in the draft), the SGA Executive Board, the iConn Steering Committee, the IS Committee, and the Enterprise Services Advisory Committee have had an opportunity to review the draft and many members have made good suggestions to strengthen the work. A second draft will be shared with the Campus before spring break, followed by a review, based on feedback, in March and April to continue this process.

One particular objective being proposed over the next three years will be to actively seek and implement cloud-based solutions for College information systems. Cloud solutions typically lower capital investment for on-premise hardware while streamlining maintenance responsibilities, including increasing stability, security, improving access and facilitating disaster recovery options. As the College seeks to operate as efficiently as possible, cloud-based solutions decrease not only the need to replace expensive on-site servers and storage, but to reduce the reliance on local staff for database and operations support as well. Furthermore, in the case of moving Banner to the Ellucian Cloud, all College data would be encrypted for security, something beyond our capacity in the on-premise environment.

Over the life of the plan, Information Services will be partnering with the Office of Communications for two additional cloud-based initiatives. The College’s public website will be redesigned this year and next, along with a campaign website, and hosted off-site using WordPress, a Content Management System with which many members of the campus are already familiar. As off-campus hosting companies have multiple operations centers, local connectivity problems are avoided and the site is more likely to always be available. We also are replacing CamelWeb with Modo Campus, a hosted mobile-first product from Modo Labs (see article on page four). Used by many other institutions of higher education, Modo Labs will provide an intranet framework to replace the College’s home-grown and difficult to maintain system while continuing to provide the key information and functionality existing in CamelWeb. We expect to have the mobile-version of Modo Campus available by the Fall 2020 and a desktop version by the end of the year.

Ideally the IS Strategic Plan 2020-2023 will articulate other key strategies to improve operations for the students, faculty and staff we serve and, most importantly, the educational program the College provides. Please share your feedback when you’ve had a chance to review the Plan.

Thanks.

W. Lee Hisle, Ph.D.
Vice President for Information Services and Librarian of the College
Data Governance Impacts Every Aspect of College Operations

ANYONE WHO HAS ATTENDED Intro to Cybersecurity (COM325) at Connecticut College is very familiar with how important the role of data governance is to any organization. It is the first thing they hear in class. The three most important components of any organization are:

1. Purpose of Organization (Connecticut College educates)
2. IT Governance (Management of information technology resources)
3. Data Governance

What is Data Governance? It is how an organization manages the availability, integrity and security of data. Why is that so important? In order to be of benefit to the organization data must be trustworthy and consistent to maintain integrity. If the data is inaccessible or difficult to get to then it makes it hard for the organization to operate or for people to do their jobs. An organization that doesn’t protect their data is vulnerable to breaches and attacks. Poor data governance can also leave a company open to regulatory compliance issues.

Organizations accomplish data governance by creating a framework of policies and procedures to help guide how data is handled and managed. This program is typically overseen by the organization’s information security officer. Most organizations create a governing council or committee which meets regularly to discuss data usage rules and governance policies. Many of the data usage rules have a records retention component.

At Connecticut College, we have launched a data governance initiative aimed at better protecting the College’s data. The Data Stewardship Committee (DSC) is being formed to oversee data governance and will consist of myself, the College’s Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), the College Archivist, and data stewards in individual departments. The first phase of this initiative is to educate departments on data governance and gather information on what types of data they possess, how it is managed and where it is stored.

Policies that help guide the DSC can be found on the Information Services Policy page: https://www.conncoll.edu/information-services/policies/#security. The Digital Data Classification Policy is a guide of how to classify data and where it can be stored. The Information Services Data Governance Policy lays out how data governance will be managed at the College. The Records Management Program and Policy help guide departments on what data they need to retain and for how long to retain it.

This can seem like a daunting task when many areas of the College are already at max capacity for resources. This makes data governance all the more important. It gives people handling data a place to ask questions and seek advice. Good data governance guidelines can instill confidence in an organization that they are doing their best to protect valuable student and employee data. Data breaches cannot always be prevented, but having a good governance structure in place can help contain it.

— John Schaeffer

Student Worker Profile: Rachel Haines ’20

MY NAME IS RACHEL HAINES, and I work as a student assistant to the research support and curricular technology staff at Shain Library. I transferred to Connecticut College during the spring semester of 2018 and am currently a senior English major and philosophy minor.

During my time at Connecticut College, I have had the opportunity to work with Professor Julie Rivkin on her long-term research project editing a critical edition of Henry James’s What Maisie Knew. As her summer research assistant, I was responsible for tracking textual variants and providing student feedback to her on annotations.

The work I have done with Professor Rivkin has enabled me to develop my year-long honors thesis titled, “Queer Substitution: On Relations Between Women in Henry James’s The Portrait of a Lady and The Wings of the Dove.” By focusing on the complex relationships between women in two canonical James novels, my project disrupts traditional readings of these texts, which so often ignore the powerful female homosocial bonds in James’s novels.

When I’m not working on my thesis or in class, you can usually find me socializing with my friends on the first floor of Shain or grabbing a cup of coffee (or two) at Coffee Grounds with a good book. I’m also a member of the College’s literary and arts magazine, Cadenza.

OER GRANT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Connecticut College Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant provides funding and staff support to faculty who wish to integrate OER into a course. An OER Grant is available to all teaching faculty at Connecticut College.

For more information go to https://tinyurl.com/v7dvqld or contact Ariela McCaffrey
Modo Labs - A New CamelWeb and a Whole Lot More!

THE WEB DEVELOPMENT TEAM is currently working to replace the CamelWeb desktop portal with a cloud-based solution, Modo Labs. This will provide a Connecticut College mobile app and CamelWeb 6 desktop app on a modern, sustainable, mobile-first platform.

CamelWeb has provided a campus intranet for many years. Since its first iteration in the early two-thousands, the College has come to rely on it as a single source for college services and information. It is the go-to place for the campus directory, dining menus, college facilities hours of operation and single sign-on to Moodle and Self Service to name a few.

The current version, CamelWeb 5, launched in 2014. It was ahead of its time with “responsive design” which means it adjusts to the size of the device so that it can be easily navigated on a phone, tablet or computer. However, the technology behind it has become outdated. Students drove the quest for a new version that provides not only a mobile-friendly solution, but one that they can download as an app on their phones. Several mobile-first technologies were investigated, and Modo Labs was way ahead of the competitors. It has the best framework for the mobile app as well as a computer desktop version of CamelWeb.

To the Cloud!

The biggest shift behind the scenes as we make the move to Modo Labs is the difference between on-premise support and a cloud-based solution. The current version of CamelWeb relies on ten servers. IT staff maintains all of the infrastructure behind the portal. This is not the case with Modo Labs. People who need to develop and maintain the new CamelWeb will be working in an environment where the technology is supported in the cloud by the vendor. The emphasis for development and support of CamelWeb can now be placed where it should be—the content rather than maintenance of web servers.

For the Campus Community and Beyond….

CamelWeb has provided a campus intranet historically for three personas (or user centered designs)—faculty, staff and students. The new CamelWeb will launch in fall 2020 with a fourth persona for new student orientation. Student Engagement and Leadership will be able to offer an orientation schedule and other content to the first year students coming to campus. Future development can provide an app for parents, alumni or any other constituent base the College may need to reach with an app.

The Office of Communication is developing the design and branding for the new CamelWeb and accompanying Connecticut College app. This photo is an initial design concept and not the actual app. Look for the real thing in the coming academic year!

— Laurie Schaeffer

New IS Employee: Joseph L. Ssebagala

AFTER A GREAT 2019 summer working as a Network Ops technician with the College, I stepped into the shoes of a Network Security and Systems Analyst since November, in which I work to keep our network and systems secure and running optimally. To achieve this, my team and I carry out around the clock and periodic network monitoring for anomalies, communicating possible risks, responding to security threats and devising means to mitigate suspicious activity to minimize damage and stop detected threats before they hit.

In today’s ever-growing complex security landscape, with an escalation of threats and increased sophistication of attackers, maintaining a secure environment for our information is of the highest priority. With my team, it’s our goal to keep our environment threat cyber resilient and compliant.

How did I find myself behind a screen? Well, frankly a childhood dream, to work with computers and make things work somewhat automatically. Today, I’m continuing with the same interest, pursuing network automation to integrate it into our network safely.

Before joining Connecticut College, I worked with the Immigration Advocacy and Support Centre in New London, as a volunteer IT consultant, helping the organization establish its IT infrastructure. Also, while in Uganda, I worked with Tooto Ndiwulira School-Mbalwa, as a Customer Care Coordinator as well as an IT support technician between 2015-2017.

Connecticut College is a great place to work; I am happy to be here and look forward to working with you.
New Online Voting System: Faculty eBallot

FACULTY EBALLOT is the online voting system used for all faculty committee elections. In recent years, faculty tellers have requested changes to the system to ease the burden of creating and managing elections. Voters have also requested changes to the system such as photos and job titles for candidates and a mobile-friendly interface for voting. Due to the age of the eBallot system and the fact that it was built on technology currently being phased out by Enterprise and Technical Systems, it became evident that a new voting system was necessary.

Tom Palazzo, technical lead for web applications and Mike Matovic, data integration specialist in Enterprise and Technical Systems, worked with James Lee, associate professor of computer science, and Mike Seifert, assistant professor of physics, to evaluate third-party online voting systems that could be used as a replacement. The major issue with most of these online voting systems was that they only accommodated 10 to 20 candidates, while our nominating ballots consist of close to 200 voting faculty. These third party systems also could not integrate with our identity vault or offer single sign-on. It was determined that a new system would need to be built in-house that could integrate with college systems, accommodate new change requests and carry over current functionality that voters were accustomed to.

Development of the new Faculty eBallot application began in Spring 2019. In the new system, information for each faculty member is updated on an hourly basis and merged with information from faculty profiles. Voters will notice a huge improvement in look and feel with candidates displayed with photos, job titles and links to faculty profiles. Votes can be cast from a mobile device. Faculty tellers now have the ability to filter candidates based on current committees and statuses.

Overall, the new system meets the needs of both faculty tellers and voters by streamlining the ballot creation process and deploying a more intuitive voting interface. The FSCC ran a successful mock election for all voting faculty in early February and plans to use the new system for all upcoming elections. — Tom Palazzo

Digital Scholarship & Open Educational Resources Showcase: Information Services Programs for Faculty Scholarship

April 15, 2020, 4:00-5:30 pm
Charles Chu Room, Shain Library
Reception, 5:30-6:30 pm, Shain Library Living Room

Current faculty in the Digital Scholarship Fellows Program and the Open Educational Resources Program will present the results of their work over the past year and a half. These programs, both collaborations between Information Services and the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, support innovative faculty scholarship and pedagogy and help to lower the cost of education through the creation of openly available course materials.

A celebratory reception will follow in the library’s Living Room.
New Shelves Boost Books by Faculty

THIS PAST FALL, library staff members installed new shelves in Shain that improved the visibility of faculty publications and current periodicals. The library also now has a new permanent book display of Information Services staff recommendations, and continues to house a display of newly acquired print books.

The project, coordinated by acquisitions supervisor Lorraine McKinney, saw the purchase of four new bookshelves that are located between the circulation desk and the Blue Camel Café. Faculty books that had been housed on the library’s lower level were moved to the new location. By moving the faculty publications to a prominent, heavily tracked area, it’s hoped that these books may see increased usage. Similarly, we are hopeful that by moving a selection of magazines, which include such consumer titles as The Atlantic, The Economist, National Geographic, The New Yorker and Rolling Stone, these magazines will be browsed and read more often.

Additionally, Lorraine will work regularly with Information Services staff to replenish the display of staff recommendations. Several books from the eclectic first round of titles were checked out, and we’re hopeful that this display will continue to be an enjoyable avenue for staff members to engage with campus library patrons.
— Fred Folmer

Library Evolves Amid Shifts in User Preferences and Technology

JUST AS RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE creation are constantly moving and shifting, libraries, and their collections and services, also evolve. In recent years, libraries have seen user preferences prominently shift in the direction of electronic materials, along with usage of library spaces not primarily as book storage but for collaboration and study. For good reason, the word “connections” is very important at Connecticut College; interestingly enough, libraries have often used this same word to describe the core of their services. Even as changes have occurred, libraries are still primarily about connecting users to resources, technology and one another.

It is clear from the library’s usage statistics that many library patrons are increasingly using electronic materials of all kinds, and Connecticut College’s library has rebalanced many of its collection practices to reflect this change. And because the library has had a flat or reduced budget for the past 10 years, while costs continue to rise, these changes are also being driven by fiscal concerns.

This trend finds perhaps its most significant expression in the usage of print materials. For more than a decade, it’s generally been true that libraries and their users have preferred electronic journals to print journals, thanks in large part to the ease of downloading and printing articles. And many libraries’ collections of print journals have dwindled accordingly. The usage of monographs has been slower to change, but there is solid evidence that this has shifted in the past few years. While the number of print volumes on the shelves has remained fairly steady, circulation of these materials has been dropping. Excluding print reserve materials, checkouts at the circulation desk dropped from roughly 41,000 in academic year 2016-17 to roughly 37,000 in the 2017-18; from 2018 to 2019, the drop was even steeper, falling to approximately 27,500 — a 33 percent decrease in a two-year period. By contrast, electronic book circulation, represented by chapter downloads, was approximately 175,000 in 2018-19, up from 131,000 in 2016-17 — over two years, a 33 percent gain.

Print Books

The library still does buy print books, however. Faculty frequently request them, and they can be vital for certain kinds of research or reading, in situations where electronic books may not be appropriate. Beyond that, they carry the advantage of item ownership, which enables the library to loan them as it pleases; this is sometimes not the case with ebooks, which are licensed rather than owned and therefore can be subject to publisher restrictions. New fiction and current events books are typically purchased in print, and the library still operates a shared print acquisitions program with consortial partners Trinity and Wesleyan, whereby a wide array of new university press titles are purchased by one of the campuses and then shared. It is not a question of electronic materials supplanting print, at least not in the foreseeable future; rather, it’s a question of the balance between the formats. It is very clear that the balance has shifted.

E-books

Electronic monographs also present a fiscal advantage for us in a time of tight budgets. Links to these materials can be loaded into the library catalog, and technology enables the library only to purchase those materials that users actually read. This arrangement stands in contrast to print books, which either have to be purchased on a speculative basis or face a time lag after a user makes a request. E-books present a further advantage for the library in another sense: they don’t require physical storage, and thus can mean space savings not just for the library, but for the campus. Square footage once allocated to books can increasingly be used for collaboration, teaching spaces, events, study spaces and technology resources. The library can, again, further shift to a role of connecting users to resources and to each other. And while physical materials play a role in this scenario, they no longer necessarily take center stage but as

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BEGINNING THIS SPRING, library staff will begin the process of digitizing the libraries’ VHS collection. This project is being driven by a desire to preserve the content for campus users, and by concerns over the continued viability and accessibility of the technology to play the tapes. It is difficult to purchase and support VHS machines, and in the very near future it will be impossible. Many of the VHS tapes must be digitized in order for the library to provide access to them. In legal terms, the end of new VHS machines renders the technology obsolete, and thus provides a legal avenue under U.S. copyright law for the library to duplicate the tapes for preservation purposes. In addition, the tapes degrade over time, and could soon be unplayable.

With that in mind, in the summer of 2019 staff members created a plan for digitizing or replacing the collection, and the plan was approved by the faculty-led Information Services Committee in November. Because copyright law only allows staff to digitize tapes that cannot be replaced in a newer format (i.e., DVDs), Lorraine McKinney, the acquisitions supervisor, created lists of tapes that are available to be purchased. Accordingly, the library will purchase DVD replacements where possible. When a DVD is unavailable, we will digitize the material. Access to the material will be provided primarily via the Kaltura video platform. For copyright reasons, we will not discard VHS tapes that are digitized; however, once digitized they will be removed from the shelves and kept in storage. — Fred Folmer

Meet our new Chief Information Security Officer

JOHN SCHAEFFER, Director of Networks, Systems and Security, was recently promoted to Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) for 25 percent of his time. Integrally involved in information security at the College for many years, John recently completed his Masters in Information Management at Wentworth Institute of Technology. In his CISO role, John heads the IS Information Security Office and oversees the College’s effort to maintain a secure information environment. John will continue his role as Director of NSS for the other 75 percent of his time. This action enabled us to eliminate the fractional CISO position.

KEVIN NORTHCUTT was promoted to Assistant Director of Network, Systems and Security taking on some of John’s previous responsibilities. Kevin has extensive experience in networking and systems administration.

Please join me in congratulating John and Kevin on their achievements! — Jean E. Kilbride

Library Evolves

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one element among many.

What’s more, the aforementioned fiscal issues confronting libraries — as with many other academic libraries, our library has faced annual price increases with no commensurate increase in allocated funds — necessitate that interlibrary loan and other forms of resource sharing become more prominent. That’s why the library has joined the Rapid ILL collective. This initiative automates many interlibrary loan functions and has dramatically increased the turnaround time from request to delivery. We have also reallocated a staff position to focus greater attention specifically on interlibrary loan. Further, the library engages wherever it can in cooperative purchase and licensing programs, with CTW partners and beyond. Sharing resources with other libraries and institutions is a key part of the connections in which the library needs to engage.

All of this increasingly problematizes the very notion of a library collection. Not so long ago, a “library” referred to the physical items that were housed inside it; now, with user preferences moving away from print, the expansion of technology, the need for collaboration spaces, and the move toward shared resources, a library collection is more of an idea — whereby the library doesn’t merely own or even merely license materials, but also is a hub that provides the platforms and processes by which a user can access resources, learn how to use them, utilize technological tools, and partner with one another. — Fred Folmer

Supporting Open Pedagogy: OER and Digital Scholarship

Join Information Services staff for an overview of the OER Grant and Digital Scholarship Fellows Programs and browse examples that illustrate best practices of open pedagogy.

Thursday, April 23, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Advanced Technology Lab, Lower Level Shain Library
FOUR HUNDRED MILES OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER

On May 31, 2019, the children of Charles Chu (1918-2008), professor emeritus of Chinese and founding curator of the Chu-Griffis Asian Art Collection, donated their father's masterpiece, Four Hundred Miles of the Connecticut River, to the College in a ceremony during Reunion Weekend. The 23-foot handscroll, which depicts the entire length of the river from Old Saybrook to Northern Vermont, was taken to the Conservation Center for Art and Historical Artifacts (CCAHA) in Philadelphia to be digitized and assessed for possible conservation needs.

The scroll was in excellent condition, but conservators felt that due to its large size, a special box should be built to house it when not on display. When scrolls are rolled up for storage, they experience tighter pressure around their central dowel than at their outer edges. For very large scrolls this can lead to the fraying of the support material and possibly to the painting itself. The new box contains a large hollow tube in the center around which the scroll can be wrapped, easing the pressure and preserving the scroll.

CCAHA staff were also able to scan the scroll at high resolution, generating print-quality images that can be used in the future for display or digital projects. The scroll returned to campus last month and has been added to the Chu-Griffis Collection of Asian Art and will be featured in future exhibitions.

WANG MANSHEW: FROM SILK ROAD TO HUDSON RIVER
FEBRUARY 5-APRIL 8
Charles Chu Room

This exhibit features the work of acclaimed New York-based Chinese artist Wang Mansheng (1962-) comprising ink painting, calligraphy, photography, print, and sketches. It presents Wang’s journey over the past 30 years finding his own roots and searching for new origins across two continents, from the Silk Road where he first felt inspired by traditional literati art as well as Buddhist art, to the Hudson River valley where he has resided since 1998 and has explored various new themes such as environment and freedom and new mediums including walnut ink and reed pen.

There will be several events in the Chu Room associated with this exhibition. On February 26 at 4:30, Wang Menshang will deliver a lecture describing his artistic journey from China to upstate New York. There will be two events focusing on the renowned caves at Dunhuang on April 2, beginning at 4:30. Dr. Di Luo, Chu-Niblack Assistant Professor of Art History and Architectural Studies at Connecticut College, will give a public lecture "Discovering the Silk Road: 1877-2020." Focusing on Dunhuang Buddhist art, Professor Luo will give a brief overview of the history of its discovery and rediscovery. This will be followed by a screening of “Subduing the Devil” an animated film about Dunhuang, directed by Haitao Chen and Qi Chen. Following the screening, there will be a Q & A co-moderated by Professor Di Luo and Professor Yibing Huang.

KANG-I SUN CHANG
MID-APRIL-JUNE 2
Charles Chu Room

A new exhibition will feature Kang-i Sun Chang the internationally renowned sinologist and the inaugural Malcolm G. Chace ‘56 Professor of East Asian Languages and Literatures at Yale University.

After earning her doctorate in classical Chinese literature from Princeton University in 1978, she became curator of the Gest Oriental Library at Princeton University. She has published extensively on Chinese literature in English and Chinese. Displaying photographs, books, letters, journal entries, calligraphy pieces, and other archival material, this exhibition focuses on Chang’s personal journey over seven decades, from a daughter of a father exiled from mainland China to an immigrant navigating her new identity in the United States.

On Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 4:30-6 p.m., Professor Chang will give a public lecture titled, “From Taiwan’s White Terror to the American Dream,” in the Charles Chu Room at Shain Library.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE CAMELS OF CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
APRIL 20-JUNE 15
Shain Exhibition Area

This exhibit will trace the history of intercollegiate athletics on campus and its unique mascot. An accompanying exhibit in the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives will look at the rich history of sports on campus prior to coeducation.