A DREAM FULFILLED!

Welcome to the recently completed Raether Library and Information Technology Center, named in honor of College alumnus and Board of Trustees Chairman, Paul E. Raether ’68. It is a magnificent facility offering a range of new programs, opportunities, and staffing to meet the teaching and research needs of the Trinity College community. Little did I realize when I helped celebrate the ground breaking in May 2001 that a dream that was years in planning would be realized so quickly. The College faced a number of significant challenges in the intervening years but never wavered in its commitment to completing the Raether Center as it was originally envisioned.

When the addition to the Library was opened to the public on March 25, 2003 most of the Library staff and programs were in place. Our first glimpse of the potential of the expanded space was realized during exams when the Grand Reading Room was full of students taking advantage of the generous and comfortable study space in that area. We also were pleased to welcome the first wave of our new neighbors from the Computing Center. The second phase of the move and final completion of the project occurred after Commencement to minimize the disruption to the academic schedule. The Raether Center is now home to the Trinity College Library, the Computing Center, Media Technology Services (formerly the Audio Visual Department), the Blume Language Center, and the Funston Café. The Raether Center quickly has become the heart of the campus.

Our summer was a busy one as the entire staff and construction crew pushed to complete the final touches on the building.

THIS INCLUDED:

- Further installation and testing of environmental, safety and access control systems.
- Painting.
- Final collection shifts.
- Renovation of the C Floor compact shelving area to allow public access to bound periodicals and government documents.
- Purchase and installation of equipment for the Music and Media areas including computers, large screen televisions, and DVD/VHS equipment. Music and Media now includes seventeen media stations and four large media viewing rooms.
- Design and installation of signage to facilitate navigating through the building and collections.

On behalf of the staff of the Raether Center I invite you to visit and share our pleasure in the completion of this ambitious project.

Dr. Richard S. Ross
College Librarian
WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF ENDEAVOR

While the Library and Information Technology Center was under construction the Library staff began parallel preparations with our CTW partners to pursue a new integrated library system, Trinity's goal, in particular, was to install a "state of the art" system for Trinity students, faculty, and staff to reflect the commitment to technology and scholarship envisioned in the new building. In December 2002, after reviewing and evaluating proposals from three library system vendors, the CTW Library Consortium signed a contract with Endeavor Information Systems to install Voyager, their online catalog. In addition to providing an improved online catalog interface, the new system also facilitates a number of internal library operations.

Over the spring and summer, the Trinity Library systems staff worked with our CTW partners and Endeavor representatives to plan a phased migration to the Voyager system. Trinity elected to migrate over the summer. Wesleyan University and Connecticut College will move to Voyager during the winter break. Trinity now provides access to the Voyager Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) for Trinity materials only. Trinity faculty and students continue to search the old Sirsi catalog to access and borrow materials from the other two CTW libraries. Once the other two CTW libraries install Voyager the CTW Library Consortium will implement its new Voyager Universal Borrower Module to allow seamless borrowing among the three libraries.

Our Reference and Instruction Librarians have prepared training materials for Voyager and we are offering training sessions for faculty and upperclassmen. In addition, Voyager specific changes have been incorporated into the information literacy instruction program for the Fall Term. The Library website has been redesigned to complement Voyager and improve navigation from the homepage. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of our Reference Staff for assistance. We realize the challenges inherent in using a new system and want to help in any way that we can.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW SYSTEM INCLUDE:

• Better searching mechanisms, including relevance ranking.
• The ability to refine a results set.
• The ability to limit a search to specific types of materials, such as videos/DVDs or government documents.
• Improved response times.
• "My Bookbag" where patrons may save search results in their accounts in support of extended research.
• A "Saved Searches" feature where patrons may pre-schedule periodic searches in specified areas of interest with e-mail notification of results.
• Improved e-mail communication for notification and tracking of requests for materials.
FACULTY COURSE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AWARDED

The following seven faculty members have been awarded funding from the CTW Mellon Grant for Information Literacy to support the introduction of information literacy skills and their assessment into classroom teaching and assignments:

- Alden Gordon: Sublime, Picturesque and Romantic
- David Henderson: Instrumental Analysis
- Cathleen Zucco-Teveloff: Math for the 21st Century
- Chloe Wheatley: Representing the Old World and the New
- Jack Dougherty: Education Reform – Past and Present
- John Mertens: Engineering Materials
- Adrienne Fulco: Introduction to American Public Policy

The awards were announced by the Grant Implementation Committee of the CTW Mellon Grant. Members from the Committee will join at least two colleagues, one from the Library and one from Academic Computing to support development of the seven courses. The courses represent disciplines from across the curriculum including three in the sciences (Chemistry, Engineering and Mathematics), two in the social sciences (Education and Legal Studies), and two in the humanities (Art History and English). It is exciting to move into this phase of the Mellon Grant, and we look forward to sharing information on these projects formally and informally, on the Trinity campus, online, and within the CTW Library Consortium.

NEWS FROM THE WATKINSON

Mr. Davis, an honorary degree recipient in 1972 and the son of a Trinity alumnus, made a series of important gifts to the Watkinson Library. In 1978, he created the John M.K. Davis Book Fund for the conservation of rare and antiquarian books in the Watkinson. A former proprietor of the Limited Editions Club, in 1984 he donated over 300 Limited Editions Club titles to the Library. More recently, he presented his copy of the magnificent Golden Cockerel Press Four Gospel to the Watkinson in honor of former Trinity College Librarian Donald B. Engley.
MILESTONES

Helen Canzanella, a favorite staff member who is familiar to many Trinity students and faculty, retired from her position as Evening and Reserves Manager in May. Helen loved her work at Trinity and was especially fond of her student workers. She was committed to staying with the Library through completion of the project and was delighted to claim her new office space in March. Her departure, after 14 years of service, was noted with regret and with best wishes for the future. Helen has been replaced by Charles Rua. Charles is a Trinity graduate, Class of 2002 and a former employee of the Hartford Public Library and the Connecticut Historical Society.

In May, Nancy Smith, TC Class of 1996, was appointed Visual Resources Curator. Nancy has been Acting Visual Resources Librarian since the departure of Trudy Jacoby in August of 2002, and her capable administration was greatly appreciated by all who worked with her. The Search Committee conducted a nationwide search for Trudy’s successor and, in the end, recognized that Nancy’s knowledge of the College and the VR collection combined with her vision for the future of the Department made her the strongest candidate. Nancy currently is enrolled in the MLS program at Southern Connecticut State University and will receive her degree in June of 2004.

Pamela Bahr, Acquisitions Assistant since 2001, relocated to Memphis, Tennessee, over the summer. Pam was instrumental in keeping order among our many journal subscriptions during the disruption of the construction project. Her excellent work was appreciated and we wish her well. Elestine Nicholson, formerly Interlibrary Loan Assistant, has assumed Pam’s former responsibilities.

The Interlibrary Loan department welcomed Jeffrey Liszka, another new employee. Jeffrey is a graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University, Class of 2002. While enrolled at ECSU, Jeffrey worked in the J. Eugene Smith Library where he gained experience in a number of different areas of the Library including interlibrary loan and circulation. Jeffrey’s hours are in the evenings in order to provide better service to our faculty and students after regular office hours.

Finally, Linda Duffy, Social Science Data Resource Specialist, left the College in late September to join the staff at the National Archives in Chevy Chase, Maryland. During her year at Trinity Linda helped define a new position that bridges the Library and the Social Science Departments. Her knowledge and expertise in support of a specialized area of the curriculum was invaluable and her work has established a model for future collaborations. A search to refill Linda’s position will begin later this fall.