From the Director
Dr. Richard S. Ross,
College Librarian

Now that the fall semester is well on its way, I want to take this opportunity to update you on some changes that have taken place in the library over the summer. As many of you know, several of the library’s most seasoned colleagues retired last winter with the Trinity Retirement Incentive Program. While it is impossible to replace over 150 years of experience, we have in the course of the past several months rebuilt our ranks both by hiring new members to our staff and by transferring or promoting current employees into new positions. I am confident that their skills, energy, and vision will help us provide the services that students and faculty have come to expect. More information on new employees, appointments, and promotions are included in this newsletter. My thanks go to all library staff who took on additional duties in this time of transition and who were willing to step into new responsibilities.

As with all academic libraries, Trinity College Library is facing the challenges of a radically changing information environment. How we position ourselves towards these challenges in the near future will affect the role the Library will have over the course of this decade. To help us with our planning, we have developed a set of strategic directions that grew out of a year-long process of discussions and staff participation. The resulting document is now used by the individual library units for...
14 Days to Have Your Say
by Amy Harrell, Music and Performing Arts Librarian

The library staff are looking for ways to expand our connections with students and get their feedback about library collections and services. Toward that end, we held an event last February called “14 Days to Have Your Say.” Beginning on the 14th of that month, students were given two weeks to openly post suggestions at http://14days.trincoll.edu, or on paper, on a library or computing topic of their choice. While we are always open to feedback from the Trinity community, this event provided a more focused opportunity to advertise our goal of broadening the dialog with our students. The planning committee for the event was composed of both library staff and members of the IT department, who also received feedback from the students.

Altogether, we received over 100 comments, both positive and negative on a variety of topics, half of which fell under the purview of Computing. Of the comments directed to the Library, major themes emerged around library spaces and facilities, computers and related office equipment, building hours and access policies, and compliments to our staff! We have already acted on many of the specific requests, including the purchase of more than 20 new carrels, the installation of better lighting, improved functionality of PCs in library spaces, and the ability to reserve a study room online.

While we could not fulfill every request students asked for, we did take the opportunity to explain some of the factors we need to consider when developing services and facilities. An official response from both the Library and Computing Departments was posted later in the spring, on the same Web site used to gather the comments. Our goal is to continue to encourage student suggestions, and the dialog that occurred during this event will play a significant role in our strategic thinking and planning in the coming years.

Additional Staffing News:

- Katherine Hart is now the Library’s primary liaison for the arts and humanities
- Charles Rua and Jose Pena, previously on the night shift in Access Services, have filled two vacated positions in cataloging and acquisitions
- Bronzell Dinkins’ responsibilities have been upgraded to cataloging and systems support
- Jason Davis and Leslie Witter have been hired as new members of the Access Services staff
- Henry Arneth, formerly employed by the Hartford Studies Project, is now temporarily augmenting the Watkinson Library staff on a part-time basis

Welcoming a New Social Sciences Librarian
by Doris Kammradt, Head Librarian for the Collections, Research and Instruction Division

During the spring semester, the Library conducted a national search for a Social Sciences Librarian. Rob Walsh was selected for the position and started working with us in early August. He is the primary liaison to the social sciences departments and programs, provides library instruction as well as individual and small group research education, and develops the Library’s resources for the social sciences.

Rob comes to Trinity with three years of experience in reference and instruction at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, Connecticut where he served as library liaison to the social sciences. He holds two M.A. degrees, one in African American studies from the University of Wisconsin, the other in library science from Southern Connecticut State University. Rob has extensive teaching experience and is passionate about supporting student learning.

In his first few weeks at Trinity, Rob has already made many connections, stepped into a range of courses to teach library research, and has been instrumental in helping the Library implement its new IM chat service. A warm welcome to Rob as a new member of the Library staff!

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their goal setting. You can find more detail about the strategic directions on page three of this newsletter.

While we need to keep the big picture in mind, our real work often consists of a number of small steps to bring about improvements and innovation. A recent invitation to students to send us their feedback (see the article on “14 Days to Have Your Say”) helped us to identify several areas that needed attention. In response to student comments, I am particularly happy to report the purchase of 23 additional study carrels that are not restricted to thesis writers but are open to all students. As the Library continues to be a favorite place for students to study, maintaining and developing our physical spaces requires ongoing care, and we are always proud to welcome new and returning students into a building that underwent upgrades and a thorough cleaning during the summer.

With best wishes for the remainder of the fall semester,

Dr. Richard S. Ross
College Librarian
SASS in the Watkinson Library
by Richard Ring, Head Curator and Librarian, Watkinson Library

Short Attention-Span Seminars, or SASS for short, are 15-minute sessions held every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Watkinson Library. Librarian Richard Ring will discuss one important print or electronic resource that he deems essential for historical or literary research, and show one or two related items from the Watkinson collection during the session. The seminars provide an opportunity to draw students, faculty, and staff into the Watkinson for a quick and educational introduction to various resources in special collections. As an incentive, each student (undergrad or grad) who attends will get a coupon for ONE free medium coffee or tea at Peter B's (the coffee shop in the library).

Research Consultations in High Demand
by Doris Kammradt, Head Librarian for the Collections, Research and Instruction Division

Last year (7/1/2009-6/30/2010), librarians conducted a total of 466 individually scheduled consultations. The busiest month was November with 72 sessions. Seniors booked the highest number of sessions, 118 or 25 percent. The total time librarians spent in individual consultations was approximately 270 hours, with the average length per session lasting 35 minutes.

Library Develops New Strategic Directions
by Doris Kammradt, Head Librarian for the Collections, Research and Instruction Division

At the end of the summer, the Library concluded a year-long process of developing a set of strategic directions to guide our planning for the next three years (2010/11-2012/13). A group of seven librarians started to meet in the summer of 2009 and mapped out a process that included literature reviews, a series of discussions on specific topics to be addressed, and the organization of focus groups to gather input and ideas from all library staff.

The resulting document is arranged by these seven topics: services, programs, outreach, collaboration, staffing, content, and space. For each of them, we have developed a contextual statement, articulated three to five strategic directions, and identified desired outcomes. The actual paths we take will be determined by an ongoing process of assessment of quantitative and qualitative evidence to demonstrate how the new directions benefit our primary constituents, the students and faculty of Trinity College.

Here are some overarching themes of the Library’s new planning document:

- Rapidly changing technologies for content delivery and communication require new approaches to traditional library services
- With the proliferation of online content, the Library’s main emphasis will be on research education, outreach, discovery tools, and digitization projects
- Shifts in priorities and technological changes call for new staff alignments and ongoing support for skill development
- Collaboration with other campus departments and partnerships with other libraries and cultural institutions are increasingly important to provide an effective service environment
- The management and definition of library spaces to support multiple functions and services continues to be a high priority


Hartford Studies Collection Moves to the Watkinson Library

After its transfer in Summer 2009 from an attic on Vernon Street to a vacant office in the Library, the Hartford Studies Collection is now housed and serviced in the Watkinson Library. A detailed finding aid, prepared by Henry Arneth as part of his work for the Hartford Studies Project, helps to identify needed material that then will be retrieved and made available in the Watkinson’s reading room.

In August 2010 the Library welcomed interns from the Hartford Public Library’s youth librarian program. At Trinity, the students had the opportunity to ask questions about the different career paths found in academic librarianship and tour the College Library.
Watkinson Library Hosts a Student-run Exhibition
by Sally Dickinson, Special Collections Librarian

In the spring semester of 2010, Jonathan Elukin, associate professor from the History Department, and Jenni Freidman, visiting professor in studio arts, launched an experimental pairing of courses, which culminated in the current exhibition in the Watkinson Library, “BOOK MATTERS: Studying and Making Books at Trinity.” One course (taught by Professor Elukin) was on the history of the book and the second (taught by Professor Freidman) was a studio art course on designing and making books. Most students took both of the classes. The exhibition features student work from this unique pairing of classes. The history students were asked to select and describe a small group of books reflecting their own interests from the Watkinson Library. Also on display are artists’ books that the students created in the studio class. Reflections by the students reveal their excitement about working with historical artifacts and the revelation of what it takes to create their own books—that they will never look at a book in quite the same way again.

An opening reception was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2010. Both Professors Elukin and Freidman were in attendance, as were several of the students from the classes. Each student had the opportunity to comment on the process he or she underwent to create his or her respective cases and what each one learned about studying and making books.

The exhibition was installed by Special Collections Librarian Sally Dickinson and will run from September 7 through December 31, 2010. Watkinson hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.