From the Director: The New Buley

The newly renovated Hilton C. Buley Library officially opened on March 19, 2015! It has been a long wait since the addition was completed and we moved in during May 2008, and several years before that the planning began for the new academic hub on campus. But it has finally opened and it was well worth the wait! The students love it! They are finding such a variety of study spaces, large and small, more group study rooms for collaborative learning, and all kinds of nooks and crannies for when they want to study alone.

The original Buley Library was 109,000 square feet; the new addition added 134,000 square feet in 2008, and now Buley has a total of 243,000 square feet. Besides the wonderful study spaces, the library now has a Learning Commons on the First Floor, where a computer lab, an Information Technology Help Desk and the Reference Desk share an area to more efficiently serve students with their research questions and IT needs. This area also contains numerous charging stations with seating. Nearby are the Circulation, Interlibrary Loan, and Reserve Desks. In the near future we will be adding Self Check-out units to the Circulation area. Beginning with the fall semester, 2015, part of this area will be gated off for 24 hour study space! Students have been requesting this for a long time and I am so happy that we will finally be able to provide it to them.

Also on the First Floor is a cyber café. The operation of the café will be a part of the food service contract that is currently out to bid. Food and service offered in the café will be determined by who gets the food service contract. Our President, Mary Papazian, has a great idea to have a contest to name the café. So start brainstorming about what will be a fun activity for the campus.

On the Ground Floor, there is a beautiful Art Gallery and there are spaces provided throughout the renovated Buley for the display of art work. The first exhibit in the Art Gallery will be “Ashfall,” an exhibit to memorialize the over one million Armenians killed by the Turks in 1915. The artist, Robert Barsamian, is from Dallas, Texas and is of Armenian heritage. The exhibit will open April 24 and remain until July.

Also on the Ground Floor is the Library’s Special Collections. Our special collections have been housed in the Old Student Center since the flood in 2006 in the original Buley Library. These collections will be moved in the near future as the weather breaks. This department now has a reading area, a processing area and compact shelving for books, documents, and artifacts. Look for the announcement when these materials arrive in their new home.

Other new areas on the Ground Floor are the Microforms Room and the Media Center. The Media Center is not completed as yet, but when completed, it will have several Listening/Viewing areas, new TVs, DVD players, CD players, and all of Buley’s media collection, as
As it turns out, “the new normal” is fantastic...

Dr. Christina Baum, Library Director

The Tiffany Windows

Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848 - 1933), a renowned designer, painter, and craftsman, remains one of America’s most influential and celebrated artists. The name Tiffany is most typically associated with the jewelry store Tiffany & Co., located at Fifth Avenue and 57th Street in New York City and founded in 1837 by Charles L. Tiffany, a native of Killingly, Connecticut. The Tiffany Glass Company, later Tiffany Studios, was incorporated on December 1, 1885, by Charles’ son, Louis Comfort Tiffany. The latter focused on new methods of glass manufacture, and before opening his studio, he had registered a patent for opalescent window glass, in which several colors were combined and altered to create an inconceivable range of hues and three dimensional effects. Tiffany devoted himself to “the pursuit of beauty” and the elevation of American Arts and Crafts into a fine art.

Tiffany produced stained-glass windows for the interior homes of Mark Twain, Cornelius Vanderbilt, and the White House under President Chester A. Arthur. His unparalleled style, reflected most notably in his glass vases, tiles, mosaics, and particularly his glass table lamps and lampshades, greatly influenced the Art Nouveau movement. The artistic pieces he produced between the 1890s and 1918 were dazzling, exquisite, exotic, and of the highest quality, thus forever joining his name with the ideal of elegance.

Unfortunately, by the time of his death in 1933, there was a decline in the interest and popularity of Art Nouveau and Art Deco, matched by a fall in the market for Tiffany’s works. With the advent of the Art Moderne and Expressionist movements, Tiffany’s signature design and style slid precipitously in popularity.

It was Dr. Robert Koch, 20 year veteran of the SCSU Art Department, a decorative arts expert, and Louis C. Tiffany’s biographer, who set in motion a revival of interest in Tiffany’s Art Nouveau glasswork designs. Born in New York City and educated at Harvard and New York University, Dr. Koch served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1945 and in 1958 earned a doctorate in art history at Yale University. Dr. Koch was the author of several books on Tiffany, and he donated rare Tiffany works to several museums.

Dr. Koch was responsible for the donation of four magnificent Tiffany Windows to Southern Connecticut State University. Three were given by the First Church of Christ of New Haven, which is also known as Center Church and the fourth was donated in the 1990s by the North Stonington Congregational Church.

Alba Morris, Reference Librarian

See additional pictures of the Tiffany windows on pages 3, 5, and 6, and on our Facebook page.
For the Common Good

The heart and soul of the newly renovated Buley library is the Learning Commons spanning 18,000 square feet on the first floor. The new commons features an array of technological and information resources which reflect the changing landscape of today’s teaching and learning. It is the next-generation library space where students can meet, learn, collaborate, research, surf the internet, play games, or hang around for fun. The space is flexible and adaptable: students can rearrange chairs to form impromptu study groups or sit in a quiet corner near the window to work on a paper. They have access to the knowledge and tools they need to be creative (books, computers, scanners, printers, and software) and the specialists (librarian and IT staff on the main floor, and the Academic Success Center on the third floor) who can provide them with the help they need. It is a convenient one-stop shopping site for students.

As you enter the impressive, cheerful building, a generous space boasts fixed tables and many brightly colored chairs. The area is open, refreshing, and well lit with natural light dispersed by huge glass windows. The tables are wired and ubiquitous power outlets enable students to plug in their own laptops and connect to the campus network. Plans are to have this area transform into the all-night study space that our students have been yearning for, a safe place away from the dorms.

A modern, glass “Reference” sign hangs on the wall at the entrance to the Reference Desk area where there are additional spaces for students to study or recline – more colorful chairs, lounge seating, and tables with network access. More than two hundred seats on the main service floor of the library including the group study rooms enable students to work in collaboration, spread out, brainstorm ideas, and be productive. A variety of seating options offers places for students to work in, relax, or admire the beautiful Tiffany windows. The area near the reference desk is hardwired and equipped with 12 PCs and 16 Apple computers that are configured with a full range of academic applications and programs. State-of-the-art table lamps are available at each station. In addition, a few computers are available for quick access to the library’s catalog and databases. A counter for users to plug in USB drives, laptops, and tablets is situated along the staircase. A visibly situated IT help desk makes for easy access to technological help and the prominently positioned computer lab supports those who do not have devices of their own.

Libraries are no longer the quiet places that shun food and drink. A new Café wired for internet access will soon be a long-awaited comfort and convenience for those who need coffee and a quick bite while studying, or a midnight snack in the late hours. The Learning Commons is a space that fosters collaborative engagement, scholarship, and peer learning in an informal setting. It is not only a learning space for our students; it’s a learning space for librarians as well. With the advent of the commons, reference is reborn. We look forward to learning how the new library space will be used and how we can continue supporting our users.

Winnie Shyam, Head of Reference
A New Home for Special Collections

Mid-summer should see Special Collections in its new home in the renovated section of Buley. For those readers with long memories we are now located on the ground floor where the serials stacks were once found. The entrance is on the left side of the grand staircase across from the new art gallery.

The new area has 4,300 square feet, a slight fraction above the 2001 architectural program of 4,286, and about twice our space before the renovation. Not only is there more space, it is consolidated space. The old rare book room was only about 630 square feet and most materials were spread in other locations including the library loading dock and the sub-basement of Engleman. In those days each area was supervised by the librarian closest, whereas the new will be a stand-alone facility designed for two full-time staff members as well as student workers. When these are hired it will be open 9:00 to 5:00, M-F.

Patrons will find a large reading room with seating space for 16. Eventually the walls will be largely taken up with bookshelves holding materials most in demand. This will include materials about Southern, books on Connecticut history, bibliographic guides, and a range of sample “rare books” that can be handled as an introduction to bibliography. The librarian’s office will be found in a corner. The large glass windows gives an aquarium effect but also discourage decoupage enthusiasts!

Beyond the reading room is a much larger space that is part-work space and part storage. Most of the shelves are moveable compact versions by Montel. These are efficient but make browsing almost impossible. Fortunately we have an efficient Technical Services division to ramp up the cataloging.

It has been a long road to get to this point and several earlier layouts have been abandoned for one reason or another. We are happy with the eventual result which was developed with the staff of Oak Park Architects. This firm was remarkably attentive to our need and made every effort to accommodate us within the parameters of difficult times. This was an experience sometimes wanting in the past. Good job Oak Park!

Paul Holmer, Special Collections Librarian

A rare hornbook from Buley Library Special Collections. Hornbooks are alphabets covered with transparent horn and were used to teach children their letters. Some frames are wood, but this is leather and was probably strung around the child’s neck.

photo by Isabel Chenoweth

The new Special Collection area includes compact shelving as well as a reading area.

photo by Shirley Anderson
Study Rooms and Online Reservations

Six new spacious study rooms surround the Learning Commons on the main floor of the new addition. Rooms 104 D, E, F, G, H, and J all sit six people, and three of them (D, E, and F) have windows overlooking the quad and the student center. We’ve expanded our online reservation system, a pilot project up to now, to ten rooms: the six new rooms and four previous rooms on the second and third floors in the back, street-side part of the library. For this semester, the current practice of limiting online reservations to a single, 2-hour block per day per person will continue. We’ll re-evaluate this policy at the end of the semester. Go to http://libguides.southernct.edu/studyrooms to book a room--reservations for the day open at midnight.

There’s been a little confusion as the second and third floor rooms have also been renumbered. Study rooms formerly numbered 204, 205, and 218 are now 236, 237, and 232 respectively. (219, now 233, is not available for online reservations yet, as it is being used to store extra chairs. Anyone who wants to use the room can do so--it’s just a little crowded!)

In addition to the new study rooms, there are reading areas on the upper floors near the central staircase. Small open rooms on the second, third, and fourth floors are already available with casual seating and study tables with electrical outlets. A larger, 2 floor study area, connecting the 2nd and 3rd floors with a spiral staircase, is still under construction. The 4th Tiffany window, the Congregational window, is on display in the 2-story windows looking out towards the student center. On the 4th floor, the Graduate Reading Room is currently housing Accounts Payable and University Accounting from Wintergreen. Once the Wintergreen renovations are done, this room will become a haven for graduate students within the library.

Rebecca Hedreen, Distance Learning and Reference Librarian
Many Southern students and faculty hopefully spent the spring break on a warm beach or just relaxing at home for the week. Some of you might have used this time to catch up with your research or class assignments. While everyone was away on spring break, our library’s Access Services staff was busy moving into our new library space.

After eight long years of construction, the renovated Library was finally completed in the beginning of March 2015. Our delay in moving into our new location has been a slow and arduous journey. Now that we’re actually in our new space, it was truly worth the wait. When you enter the first floor of the library, you’ll immediately see our Check-Out desk. The service desk and our spacious work area will improve our service-oriented focus. We’re also located adjacent to the Information Commons and Café, so we’re anticipating that our desk will be busier than ever with questions about the building.

Our move to our new location is not just about our physical space and collections. Our new location will continue to offer Circulation, Reserves, and Interlibrary Loan services. We’ve been exploring new ways to enhance your library experience even before the building was finished. We can now announce several new services that will assist you with your library needs.

What new changes will you see in Access Services? The Learning Resource Center will be relocated from the third floor to the first floor of the Access Services Division. In an effort to improve customer service, students and faculty can now easily drop off or pick up your poster and printing requests from one central location. The hours will be expanded to accommodate your needs, especially during the weekend and evening hours.

When you enter or exit the building you’ll soon discover that we have a new RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) security system. RFID applications have many different benefits for our library. The system can be used to safeguard our library materials as well as automate many of the circulation department’s functions. Buley Library will now be able to inventory our collections and have a more accurate picture of our holdings. With RFID, the process saves us staff time and inventory projects are easier to complete.

What else is coming? Our next step is to purchase a self-check out station that will allow you to check out library materials without a wait. All you’ll need to do is set your books on the counter and the check-out system will do the rest.

We know that the past years have been dusty, noisy and not conducive to spending time in our library. But once you check us out you’ll also be impressed with the new building and our quality services.

Shirley Cavanagh, Head of Access Services
With so many changes evident as soon as one walks through the front doors of Buley it hardly seems necessary to wonder what’s happening on the other floors. And yet every level of the library is affected by the renovation since virtually every aspect of service has been in a “temporary” state for almost 7 years!

On the ground floor, the renovated portion of the library includes storage and service points that bring the complete microform collection back into the building after having had many cabinets of material in storage since 2007. In addition to better accessibility to the film and fiche, the periodicals department can now offer improved service as well. The temporary location for reader/printers was not on the university network which meant research could only be saved to a physical thumb drive. The new, networked location will offer users the options to save, email, or print their source material. In addition to the micro format scanners, the ground floor also has a fully networked book scanner so that patrons can scan print material from bound journals or other resources and print, email, or save to their university accounts. There is ample study space including an array of soft seating and tables and chairs spread throughout the old and new sections of the building. Technical Services staff members are still located on the ground floor and are ready to assist students and other users in any way—including scanning material requested via email to patrons who cannot come to campus themselves. The ground floor collections include interesting gems and sometimes forgotten primary source material that has not been digitized and requires a little legwork to find. But, when just the right article or manuscript is located, it can be the keystone of a great research project. The ground floor of Buley is open for business!

Cindy Schofield, Head of Technical Services
**Staff News**

**Kari Swanson** has joined the library faculty as the new Serials Librarian. She earned her MLS in 1999 from Southern. Kari previously worked for 13 years at Yale in different roles including the Chief Acquisitions Librarian and the Director of the Science Libraries. She also worked at Western Connecticut State University as the Systems Librarian. Kari is very active in the American Library Association. In her down time, she enjoys photography, knitting, and tie-dye.

![Kari Swanson, our new Serials Librarian. photo by Robert Velez.](image)

**Paul Holmer** has been attending a three part series of workshops offered by the Connecticut State Library’s Conservation Connection. These are offered at different venues, the most spectacular of which was the Florence Griswold Museum. In February he entertained Barbara Shailor from Yale Classics and Consuelo Dutschke, Curator of Medieval Manuscripts at Columbia who came to examine a rare stenciled choir antiphonal in our collection. This is almost certainly an 18th century Spanish Franciscan book and may have been used at one of the missions in the southwest, possibly San Juan de Capistrano. A nice find!

**Robert Velez** displayed a solo photography exhibition at the Silas Bronson Library in January featuring portraits.

**Wendy Hardenberg**’s first novel-length translation, “Heart Collector” was released on February 1 and it’s resulted in two more translation contracts for her. The library has a copy in the Leisure Reading Collection for anyone interested in a good mystery read.

**Chris Baum, David Feinmark, Cindy Schofield, and Jackie Toce** attended the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. David Feinmark reported that he attended several noteworthy sessions on collection development including a forum on “A Library Collection Today and into the Future: In Theory and in Practice.” **Shirley Cavanagh** attended the Association for College and Research Libraries Conference in Portland, Oregon.

![Wendy Hardenberg’s first novel-length translation, “Heart Collector” was released on February 1 and it’s resulted in two more translation contracts for her.](image)

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