Greetings from the Dean of the Library

September, 2012

Welcome to our returning students, staff and faculty, and welcome especially to the Class of 2016!

There’s a whiff of changing seasons in the air. And although the Sojourner Truth Library is changing too, it’s not in the ways we anticipated this past spring. The major renovation, scheduled to being in August, has been temporarily suspended. The State University Construction Fund (SUCF), in consultation with the College administration, terminated, for convenience, its contract with the original general contractor for the project. “For convenience” is a legal term that allows the SUCF to end the contract, without reason, when it believes it is in theirs and the campus’s best interest to do so.

What this means for us
Most importantly, the Library renovation will go forward. Our Facilities Management office is working with all parties to resume project construction as soon as possible.

Just as important: library service will continue with as little disruption as possible. In fact it has expanded! Library Help is now available outside the library, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Career Resources Center. You can also Text a Librarian @ 845-262-2011 or Tweet us: @stl_updates

More than 40 new PCs are on order to replace the public machines retired this spring. These will start to deploy in the next 2-3 weeks. We plan to have 49 new public computers in use by early October.

Our service desks are open for business as usual, with our student and professional staff ready and eager to help you. Much of the furniture that was moved off the Main floor will soon return. So will many of the books and journals that were moved to the lower levels. The popular Late-Night study room will re-open temporarily in the Terrace, starting September 9, featuring laptops, wifi and wireless printing.

See our “Renovation @ the Library” handout, available at our Information and Circulation desks and online, for more information about the renovation timeline and where to find old familiar resources in their new temporary locations.

In other news

iPads on Loan: Following on the wildly successful laptop lending program, STL now has iPads available for checkout with a valid NP ID at the Checkout Desk. The loan period is 3 hours. Each iPad comes with the native iOS apps and word processing apps such as Apple Pages, but users can add their own as well. All personal data will be completely erased from every iPad once returned.

Wireless Printing is now available on all lending laptops. Plus, librarians can help you set up your own laptop to print wirelessly in the Library. Ask at the Information Desk for more help.

Oh, and one more thing…
Yes, as some of you may have noticed, the Library also has a new Dean! That’s me, Mark Colvson. I’m hoping to carry on the successful leadership of retired former Dean Chui-Chun Lee, and Interim Dean William Connors, in placing the Library at the heart of the academic conversation here at New Paltz. I look forward to getting to know you better in the months to come. Watch this space for a coming announcement of an informal “Meet the Dean” opportunity.

Meanwhile, please join me at “Seeing Satire in the Peepshow,” the 6th Annual Dennis O’Keefe Memorial Lecture, next Thursday, September 13, 5pm, Lecture Center 104. For more information on this fascinating lecture by Professor of Art History Reva Wolf please read the Latest @ the Library Newsletter. Hope to see you there!