Campus Welcomes Bill Connors Back As Interim Dean of the Library

William E. Connors (Bill Connors) began his appointment as Interim Dean of the Sojourner Truth Library on January 1, 2012, following the retirement of the long-time Dean, Dr. Chui-chun Lee. Bill is not new to the State University of New York at New Paltz, having served, in a variety of posts including Dean of the Library and Instructional Resources until 1996. He joined the faculty in 1966 when the library was housed in the former library building at the north end of the campus. He worked for three years as Librarian for Technical Services charged with preparing the collection to be accessed and managed electrically using punched-card devices. Personal computers did not yet exist.

Over the next 32 years he was active in moving the library collection and services into its present building and multiple renovations of the new building. He also developed an on-line catalog and initiated the use of numerous computer-based devices and services that define the acquisition, access and research services of the library today.

One of his proudest accomplishments was the dedication of the library to Sojourner Truth. Following the suggestion and lead of his library colleague, the late Alvin Thiessen, negotiations to recognize this woman, whose name appeared on perhaps only two buildings in the United States this College was one of the initiators of a movement that brought a slave born and raised in Ulster County from relative obscurity to international esteem.

We are indeed fortunate that Connors returns at a time when the entire Library operation is going to move into temporary spaces on the lower two floors while the main floor is renovated to meet the demands of library research.

SAVE THE DATE

The Friends of the Library will host Pop-up-Book author Robert Sabuda for a lecture and book signing on April 4, 2012 on the New Paltz Campus. This event is free and open to the public.
Library Hours Restored

Cheryl Torsney, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, announced in December that eight library hours would be restored each week, beginning at the start of Spring semester 2012. The hours were originally cut in Spring 2011 in response to SUNY-wide budget challenges, and after reviewing data on library usage. Eight of the most underused hours in the week were eliminated.

Provost Torsney stated “We understand the critical role of library access in the learning, research, and academic success of our students. In discussions with me this fall, Student Association (SA) leaders made a compelling case for the need for more library hours. I will continue meeting with SA leaders and the Dean of the Library to discuss the possibility of further extending library hours. SA leaders are developing and will implement a new survey of library hours early next semester, and data from that survey will help inform decisions about additional changes in library hours. If the survey data indicate a need for extended hours, the administration is willing to consider allocating resources for changing the library schedule. We will continue to monitor usage of the library, and will base future decisions about changes in the library schedule on actual usage.”

Please check the Calendar on the STL web page for hours.

Latest news on Library Renovation

The roof replacement, the first stage of the library renovation, is finished. If you look down at the library roof from HAB you will see a sparkling white surface with new edging along the perimeter.

The installation of 17,000 linear feet of additional compact shelving on the ground floor is well underway, and is scheduled to be completed in mid-February.

The next phase of the library renovation will be the lower east side (LES) library offices. This will entail LES staff relocating to other areas in the library while that area is under renovation.

The refurbishment of the entire main floor is slated to start after commencement in May 2012. The lower two floors of the library will remain open during this time, with services moved to the Concourse level. More details will be provided as details emerge later on in the Spring semester.

Ask Us 24/7 is a 24 hour, 7 day a week online reference service that allows you to chat with a college librarian anytime you need help with research. SUNY New Paltz librarians staff the service along with hundreds of academic librarians from other participating colleges and universities. SUNY New Paltz students who connect to Ask Us 24/7 may not necessarily chat with a SUNY New Paltz librarian; however they will receive live help from an academic librarian from another participating school. The Ask Us 24/7 librarian will know how to assist you with our resources at the Sojourner Truth Library, and if you need help specifically from your home library, your question will be referred to STL and a STL librarian will get back to you via email.

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