

IT MATTERS

Library Opens Learning Center

By Michelle McHugh, Cataloging and Metadata Librarian
Weinberg Memorial Library



Reilly Learning Commons

The University of Scranton's Weinberg Memorial Library recently opened its new Learning Commons! The Reilly Learning Commons is on the first floor of the library, which was renovated over the summer to include new group study rooms, collaboration spaces, and high-end technology. The renovation was entirely completed with donations raised through an initiative led by Dean Charles Kratz for the Weinberg Memorial Library's Twentieth Anniversary. The main donations came from the Reilly family. Joseph Reilly worked at the University of Scranton for many years in the maintenance department and two of his sisters, Evelyn and Katherine, were both early female graduates of the school.

Planning:

The planning for the new spaces was a huge collaborative effort between many campus groups. The Learning Commons committee consisted of library staff, teaching faculty, CTLE staff, Information Re-

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WordPress Web Services Now Available to Faculty and Staff

by James Franceschelli
Dir., Information Technology Services, ITS

Information Resources is partnering with the Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence to pilot WordPress Web Services. Through the new service, Faculty or staff may request the use of WordPress to create individual pages and blogs to support their instructional and research activities. This service is meant to supplement the resources already available through the Content Management System for individual needs. It is not for use in creating or maintaining

divisional, departmental, programmatic or official University Web pages as defined by the University's Web Guidelines (<http://www.scranton.edu/webcms/images/web-guidelines-2013.pdf>). The pilot phase will run through the fall term and help us to identify training, resource and support needs. Faculty interested in working with us on the pilot should contact the Technology Support Center or the Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence.

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sources, IT Services, and campus facilities. The committee began with researching other libraries' learning commons and trends in services. The committee took field trips to Penn State University, University of Pennsylvania, and St. Joseph's University to tour their libraries. Focus groups were conducted with faculty to learn about services and technology they would like to see in the library for their students to complete projects in their courses.

The committee created a plan from their research for what they wanted in the Reilly Learning Commons and presented this vision to the architects from Hemler & Camayd. The architects, campus facilities, and IT services worked to bring this vision to life over the course of one year. In spring 2014, the committee finalized a floor plan, ordered technology, and green lighted construction!

The Space:

The Reilly Learning Commons has 8 group study rooms. Two are dedicated to the Writing Center, which provides help to students in the evening. They will be holding both appointments and drop-in hours. When tutoring is not scheduled, the rooms will be available for students to reserve.

There are 5 group study rooms around the perimeter. They each have large monitors with HDMI connections for students to view their laptops as a group. The group study rooms are reservable through SpringShare's LibCal software. We are encouraging students to always reserve a room. In each of the rooms, the blue walls are writeable! Some have chalk and some have dry-erase markers.

We also have a room dedicated to lecture capture. Students are able to record presentations using Panopto software and save them online. They can view themselves back for critique or send copies to their professors.

There are four booth seating, or collaboration areas with large monitors and HDMI cables. Four students can have their devices plugged in at a time and switch between them by pushing the play button on each cord. We are circulating additional adapters for other devices in case they don't have HDMI ports. These seating areas also have two stools and a high counter for additional students to work together.

In addition to the group study rooms and the collaborative booth areas, we've also added 6 new high end PCs and 6 new iMacs! They each have dual monitors and have brand new software including Adobe Creative Suite, iMovie, Final



Cut Pro, and more. Students can work in pairs or small groups at these stations. We also have our 19 older lab PCs and open stations for students to bring their own device. We have also added a Tech Support office that is staffed by student workers daily to help with technology in the space.

The Future

We see our new Learning Commons as the first step toward our long term plans for the Weinberg Memorial Library. We hope that feedback and use of the space will drive change upward to the other floors of the building. We are very excited to see how students use the new space and what they create with the technology we are providing.



October is CyberSecurity Month
by Adam Edwards, Information Security Dir.

On-Line Safeguards

1. Create Strong Passwords and change them often. (Use upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols with a minimum of at least 9 characters.)
2. Don't use your University password for any on-line log in. Create strong, new passwords for sites that require them.
3. Only navigate to trusted web sites.
4. Avoid downloading files or images from sites you don't know.
5. If banking on-line, check your balances DAILY to spot irregularities.
6. Don't give out personal information or transact business over public WiFi networks. Information can be easily intercepted.
7. Don't share too much personal, financial or location information on social media sites like FaceBook.
8. Avoid sites offering "too good to be true" offers.
9. Never give out your Social Security number to any site. See if you can make other arrangements such as using the US Postal Service.
10. Set your browser(s) to clear your History and your Cookies.
11. Report any problems to TSC at ext. 4357.

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