



## Springfield Armory: A Look Down the Barrel of History

by Michael Louth

After the Revolutionary War President George Washington proposed that if we are to be a nation of our own we must have a place to manufacture weapons for the nation's defense. In 1794 the Springfield Armory was approved by President George Washington and Congress, to begin manufacturing small arms for our nation's military. The Springfield Armory was the epicenter of weapons development and manufacturing for 174 years, closing in 1968.

President Washington chose Springfield, Massachusetts as the location due in part because of its geographical advantage. It lies in the midst of the Connecticut River Valley, at the intersection of three rivers, being located north of Enfield Falls, the Connecticut River's first waterfall; ocean vessels could not navigate the river. Therefore, the Spring-

field Armory was protected from attacks by sea faring vessels from the river. The geology of Springfield also offered a strategic advantage, being on a plateau. This offered the high ground advantage. Springfield also acted as a midpoint between Boston and New York.

The Armory's early superintendents had frequent contacts with many inventors, such as Eli Whitney. As a result of these contacts the Springfield Armory incorporated machines with hand work, which eased the production and standardization of parts for the firearms it produced. The Armory's industrial processes and inventions were eventually assimilated into the private sector, transforming how modern consumer products were produced. Many towns and cities were established along the Connecticut River, from Vermont to Connecticut that

used these advancements in technology. This area is now known as The Precision Corridor.

One of the most important machines was the Blanchard Lathe, invented by Thomas Blanchard. An employee of the Armory for five years, he believed that if something had to be repeatedly produced it should be done by a machine. In the five years of his employment he invented thirteen machines that eased production of musket stocks. The same process is in use today when you go get your keys copied. Blanchard's inventions made interchangeability of parts and mass production possible. The original Blanchard Lathes can be viewed in the Armory museum.

During the 174 year history of the Armory many famous rifles were designed including:

- U.S. Flintlock M1795 – Post Revolution War, War of 1812
- U.S Percussion Musket M1842– Mexican-American War 1846-1848, Civil War 1861-1865
- U.S. Percussion Rifle-Musket M1855 – Civil War 1861-1865
- U.S. Percussion Rifle-Musket 1861 – Civil War 1861-1865
- U.S. Springfield "Trapdoor" M1873 – Spanish-American War 1898, Philippine Insurrection 1899-1902, American Indian War
- U.S. Krag-Jorgenson Magazine Rifle M1892 – Spanish-American War 1898
- U.S. Springfield Magazine Rifle M1903 – World War I, World War II
- U.S Semi-Automatic M1 Garand – World War II (1939-1945), Korean War (1950-1953)
- U.S. Rifle M14 – Vietnam (1955-1975)

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## Reading Group Honors Founder, Professor Dennison Rice

There's a certain something that happens when you get a group of Faculty, Staff and Administrators together to perform, and that is a spontaneous ignition of fun, talent and collegiality that is contagious!

This semester's October 30th performance of the STCC Reading Group at the "Top of Springfield", Scibelli Hall, was particularly mean-

ingful as it was to honor and commemorate the legacy of recently passed Professor Dennison Rice. Denny founded and led the group until his retirement when he passed on the baton to Professor Davis Johnson who has run it ever since.

The Reading Group performs once a semester with works both

original and by well-known authors, selected around a theme. Selections include poetry, prose, musical compositions, and excerpts from plays. The group is always looking for new members, so if interested, please contact Davis Johnson at ext. 5250.

The following performed, giving Denny quite the send-off:

- Professor Kathy Andrew
- Professor Ken Forfia– "The Cacophonous Clanger of the Keys"
- Anita Gallers, Academic Counselor
- Professor Davis Johnson
- Professor Nancy Pickett
- Professor Nan Rice
- Professor Yasotha Sriharan



Professor Nan Rice performing "Imagine" by John Lennon, in honor of her late husband, Professor Dennison Rice, founder of the STCC Reading Group.



Performers and audience members at the October 30th Reading Group performance in honor of the recently passed Professor Dennison Rice. Photos by Cynthia Claudio.

# Birth of a Vocation

by Chaveli Vazquez

Growing up, my summers were always spent on Connecticut's beaches where I realized what I wanted to pursue as a career. The moment I realized I wanted to become a marine biologist was an experience I won't forget because it opened my eyes to all the things living around us that we don't take a moment to notice.

My family used to spend weekends at a hotel in West Haven Connecticut, where the beach was only across the street. It was a hot summer day in the middle of July and I was probably around nine years old. I remember sitting on the wet sand enjoying the soft breeze and the sounds of the birds chirping. I sat peacefully watching with curiosity the seagulls peck at all the little crustaceans that stay left behind during low tide. The sight was interesting to me, so I got up off the sand and started walking

straight towards them. Walking barefoot, I could feel all the little shells from the hermit crabs and snails under my feet along with the soft wet sand. The sand was cold and refreshing on my feet, but the smell was strong and fishy, which only killed the vibe slightly. Although it smelled, it didn't stop me from wanting to explore.

As I was walking I was watching the sand and the imprint that my foot left behind, and noticed a sudden squirt of water. I wanted to know why water just randomly squirted out of the sand like that, so I took an old jagged seashell big enough to dig with, and started digging at the spot where the water came from. I dug until I hit something hard and broke the shell. When I reached into the hole to try and feel what was inside, I felt a huge rock that was jammed into the sand, so I got on my knees and used both

hands with a good amount of force to release what I thought was a rock from the sand. When I finally pulled it out, it was a giant clam that was bigger than my hand. I could feel the clam tighten itself up while still in my hands. This is a defense mechanism they use to keep predators from opening them up. It looked just like the purple clams from Sponge Bob, just not as purple.

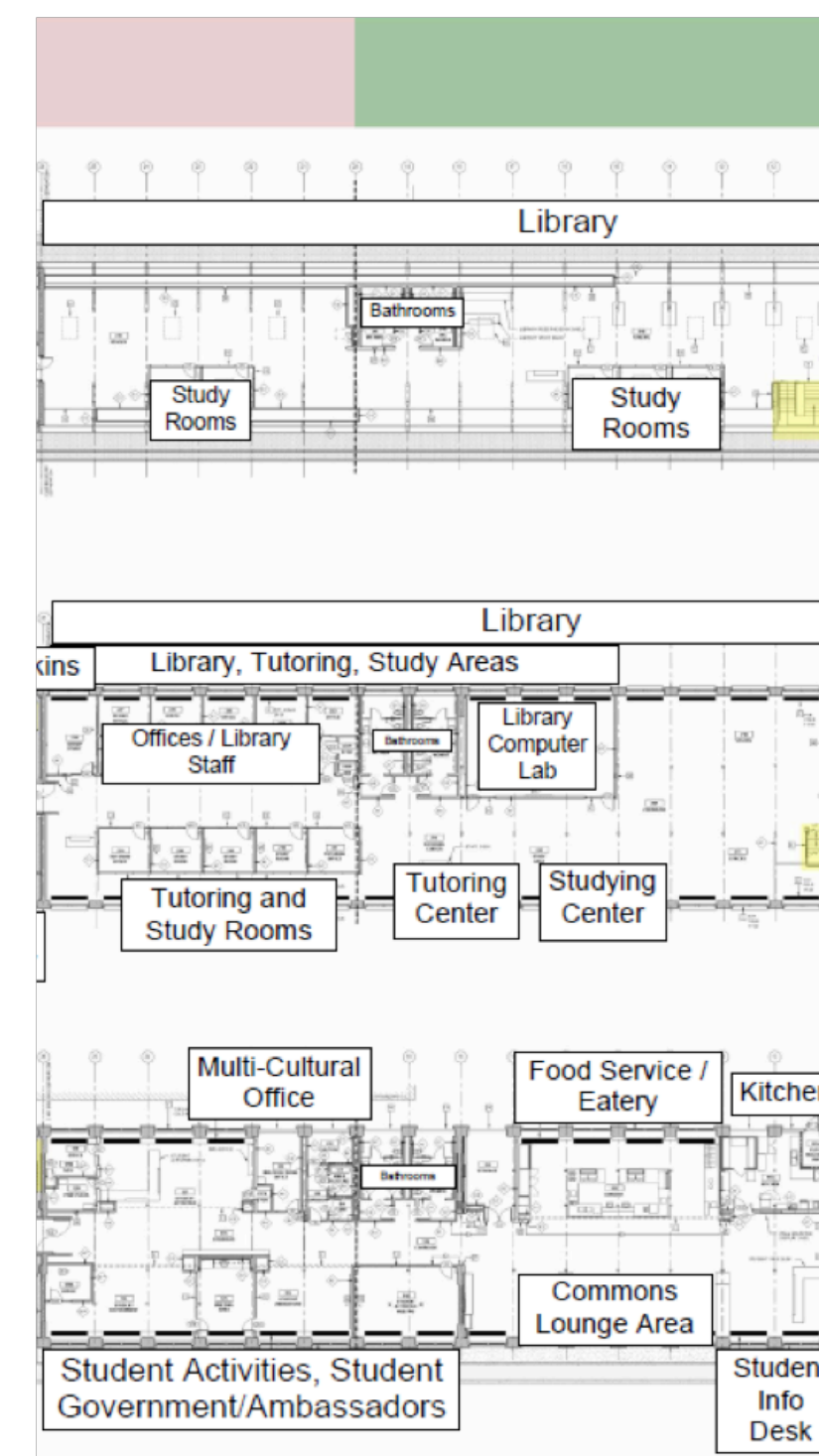
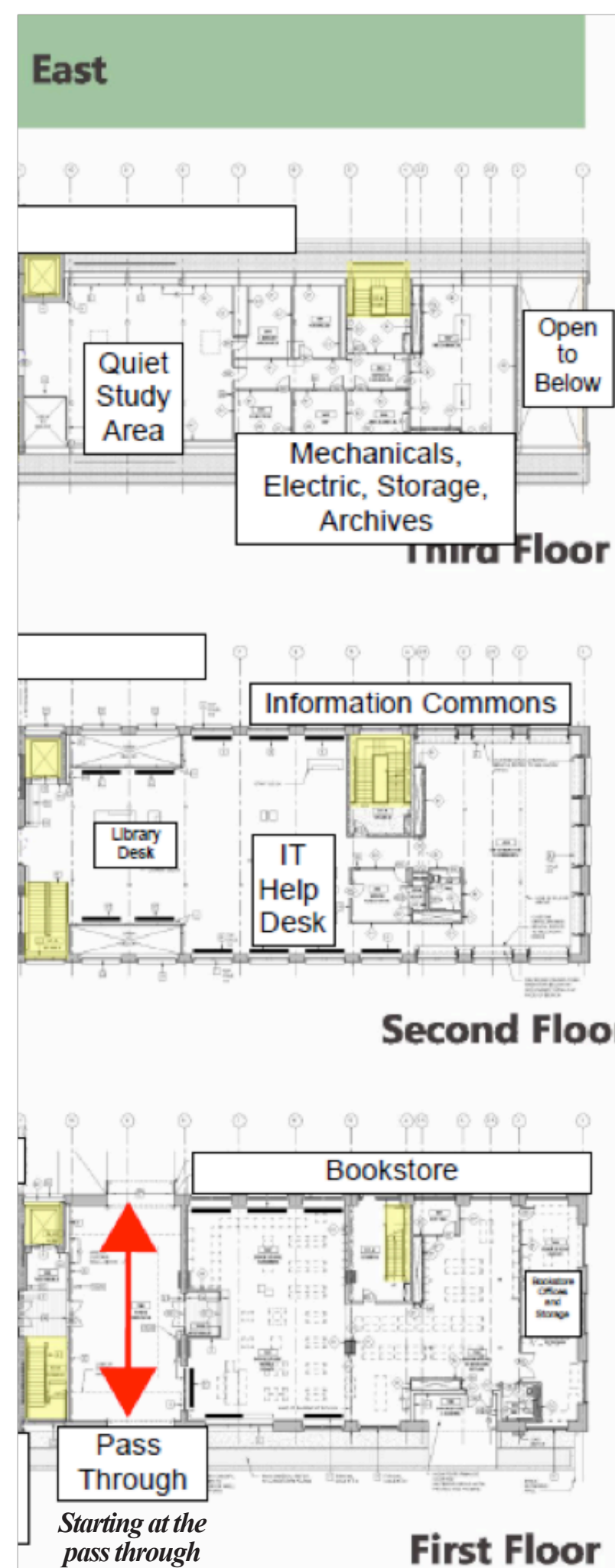
I stared at what I had just found and realized how cool it was that I had found it. I then started to think about what else I could possibly discover and how awesome it would be to find something totally brand new to me. I put the clam in a small toy bucket that I found randomly thrown around. It was cracked a little bit and was missing the handle, but it was good enough to hold a couple of clams. I was so intrigued and continued looking for more random squirts

of water and digging up the clams. I spent most of that day happily digging, but was only able to find a few more before the tide started to come in again. I walked off the beach with my bucket of clams and crossed the street back to the hotel to show my family what I had found under the sand. I remember feeling so proud of myself for learning something new. Obviously, catching clams wasn't a new thing, but it's not something I ever knew about or how to do.

This experience was one that I will never forget because it opened up my eyes to the world of marine biology, which is a field that I find so interesting in every way. A marine biologist is someone who studies all types of sea creatures, and can choose to specialize in studying large ocean animals. It made me realize that there's so much to learn about the oceans, and we've only scratched the surface.

# Building 19 Tour Guide Talking Points

Welcome! We are visiting an active construction site and although we are conducting tours on off hours there are safety protocols we need to follow. Sign-in and sign-out, waiver form, wear a hard hat, vest and protective eyewear. We will be visiting the first floor only as safe access to the other floors is not reliable day to day. This is only a general overview! We will talk about all three floors and the general locations of departments. Facilities will be meeting with department heads very soon to talk about the more detailed aspects of each move.



- First Floor**
- As we start walking to the west, on the right is the café and a commons lounge area. STCC is preparing an RFP to bring in an outside franchise. The venue will have a varied selection of seating options. We are anticipating full time coffee service that will remain open even when the café is closed.
  - The student information desk will be here on our left, prominently located for the benefit of our students.
  - This area could almost be called a mini campus center with plenty of room to hangout.
- Second Floor**
- Tutoring, study rooms, library computer lab, library staff. The library is working hard to reduce stacks so more space can be utilized for student spaces.

- Third Floor**
- Study rooms (again part of the new library space).
  - Bathrooms on all three floors.

• Follett bookstore space

**Second Floor**

- Information Commons (part of the library space) is on the 2nd floor and will house the IT Help Desk.

**Third Floor**

- Above us on the 3rd floor is a quiet study area, storage and mechanicals as well as a nice area that is open to the second floor below.

by Jamil Sam

# The Field of Euphoria

I laughed and smiled to myself as if no one was around, only to pick my head up and realize I was out in the open in the fresh air where anyone could see or hear me. I must've looked a madman; why is the Joker dribbling a basketball? Another mental moment had passed before it even came to my attention that the city workers I had passed by on the way in were still plugging away down the sewage drain with their giant truck that looked like one of those classic cement-laying ones you see on TV. I had already conversed with them on my way in to the steel fence-enclosed court, because their contraptions were so large they all but blocked one narrow path into the cage; I had to gesture for their attention to ask if it was safe passing. They wondered what I was doing so early in the morning coming to shoot around when the ground was still wet from the previous night's rain. I explained to them that I'm a coach and that though I don't play competitively anymore, I use the isolated court to experiment new drills and training methods on myself.

One of the reasons I think— well I know, I enjoy the company of Nash Field so much is because of the privacy. You have to take an obscure, winding back-way street adjacent to "The Dike" so if you aren't from Chicopee you'd never find it. The Willimansett Dike, as it's formally called, is an elevated, artificial levee that runs the border of the Connecticut

cut River along the outskirts of the area of Chicopee I live in, Willimansett. Built after the destructive Willimansett flood caused by The Great New England Hurricane of 1938, the border of elevated land serves mostly as a stroll-path for people of the community these days (Triposco "Chicopee Culture" 2017). Even a strong majority of my peers or school-aged kids from the city have to think twice, or long and hard about the location of Nash Field, where The Dike comes to what I assume to be a central break. I guess to me— that just ensures there will be no "outsiders" invading when I'm simply enjoying my free time, shooting or dribbling around as I see fit. It's also just virtually out of sight from the general public and even most of the immediate neighborhood.

It's not the greatest court in and of itself; there are cracks full of green grass that make the court look like an aerial view of the planet, almost in reverse color with lush, healthy green bodies of water abounding. The three point line is largely invisible; the only reason I could point it out to a newcomer is because I've sort of trained my mind to find it at this point. It's marked by faded dashes here and there rather than the full-blown, surrounding arc it should be, but depth perception is a neat mental trick I'd like to think I have a good hold of. The hoops themselves are surprisingly satisfying though; both are the same height and seem to be about the

height of a regulation indoor hoop. Contrast to most other courts that have two rims at distinctly varying heights and maybe even made of different metal material, and it becomes refreshing when you realize how "normal" Nash's hoops are.

When I want to run a few pickup games I go to other courts with friends and play all day, but as far as my personal favorite goes, Nash is right above all of them. I can stroll and shoot around casually there for hours, maybe even longer than I do actually running pickup games elsewhere. I'll even come straight to Nash after a hoop session at Szot or Fairview, almost habitually instead of driving back to my house to shower. Only a block or two away, the proximity of the court to my own home adds even more-so to my comfort-ability with it. I almost use it as an extension of my home, rather than the cliché, "home away from home". I always dreamed that if I made the NBA I would have my own personal indoor court in my mansion, or maybe a whole conveniently placed gym on my "campus" (property). I'm neither rich, wealthy, nor in the NBA so the crack-laden court at Nash plays surrogate.

I've lived in the same house for all twenty-one years of my life but I never really shot around or spent much time at The Field in my youth, instead opting for the rickety driveway hoop my neighbors had probably almost exclusively known me for.

As a youngster, shooting hoops was always a favorite pastime that almost never failed in helping me relieve my mind of near any worry. Since graduating high school and going on to begin "real life", I've regained that youthful calming innocence whenever I get a whole court to myself. In the driveway, every bounce of the ball echoes off the houses and trees in a way that I find to be unnatural and almost aggravating to a point. The clanking of the rim off every shot

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**Behind the Tech Times**

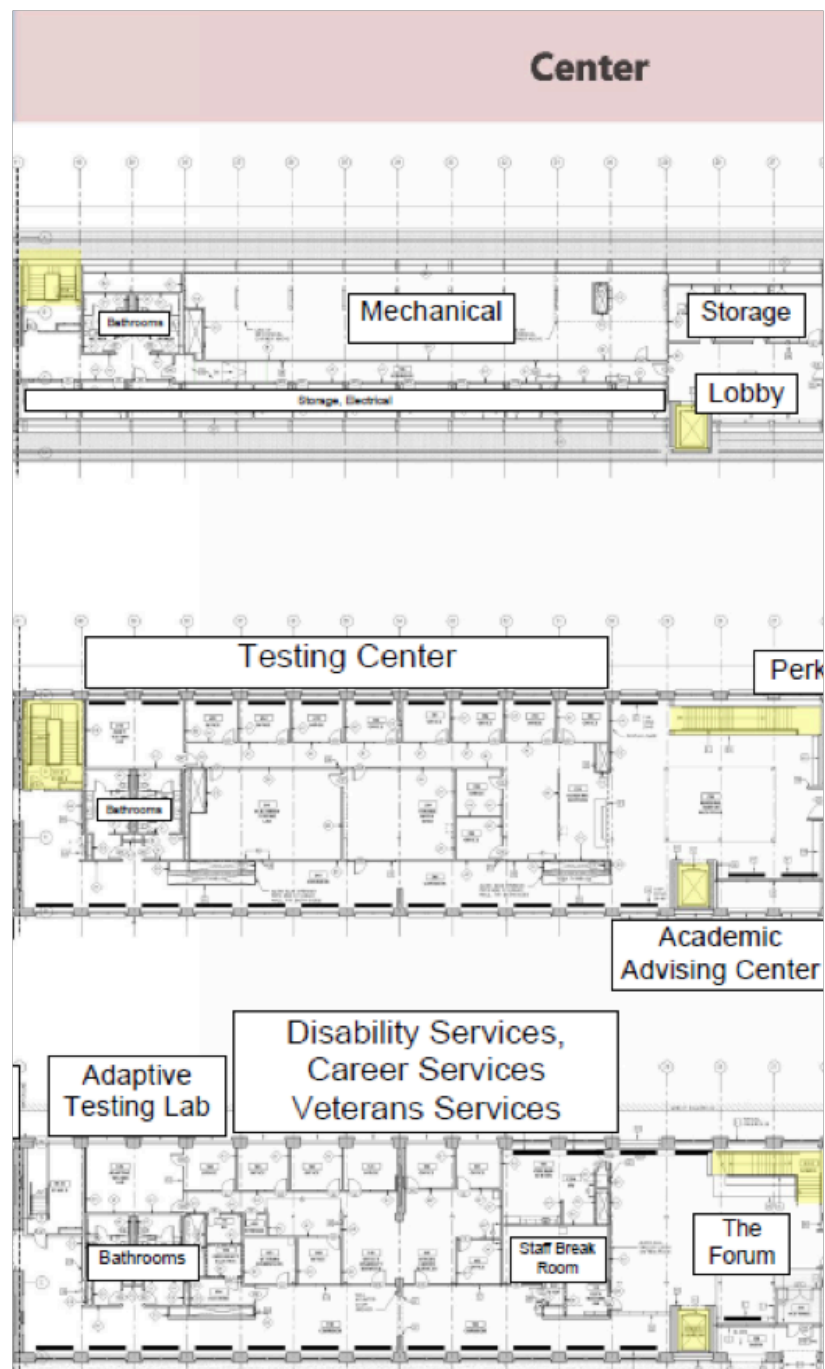
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# Building 19 Tour Guide, continued



- First Floor**
- The forum. This is a new space the STCC has never had before. Land mark for you (center elevator on South wall). At the end of the forum, there is a big concrete wall.
  - Disability, career, and Veterans' services and the adaptive testing lab.

- Second Floor**
- Academic advising and the testing center.

- Third Floor**
- Lobby, storage and mechanicals.
  - Bathrooms on all three floors.

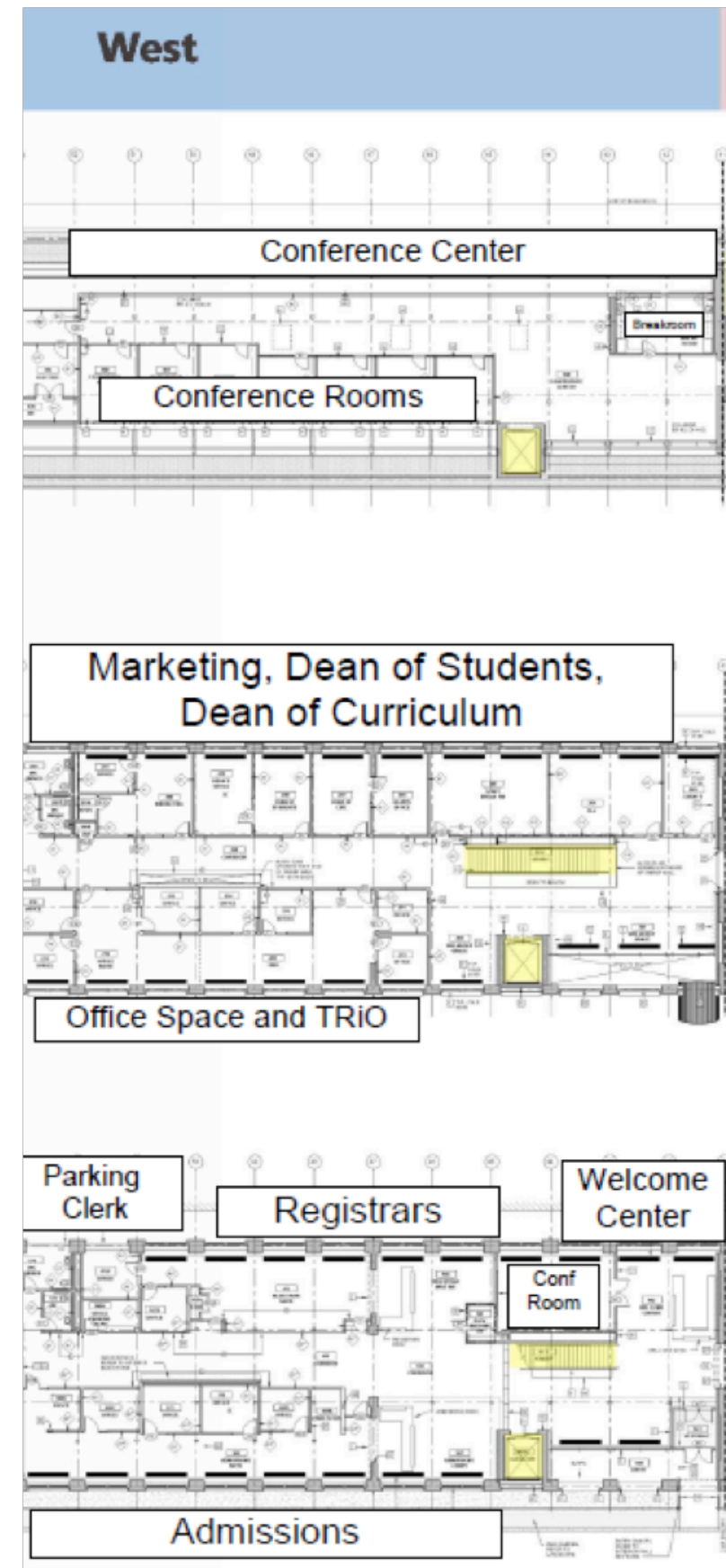
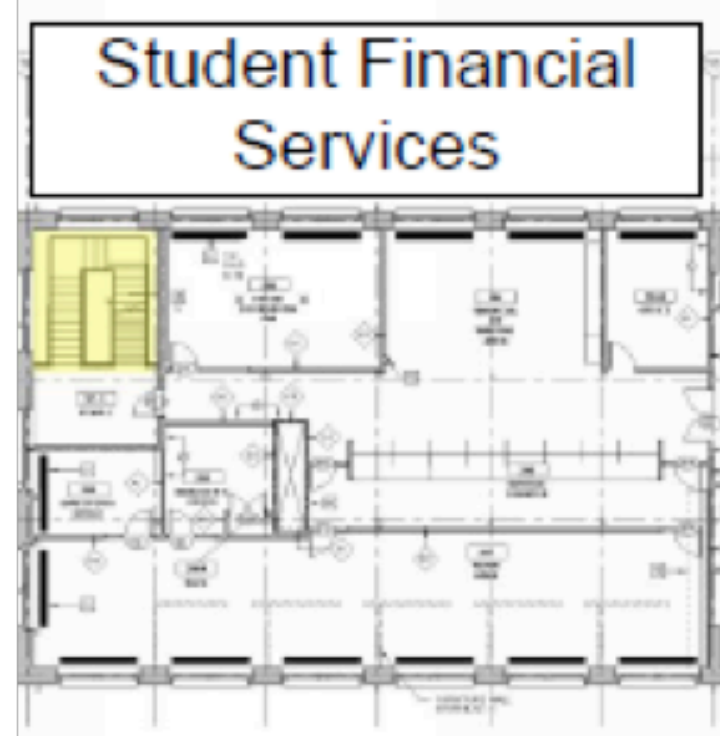
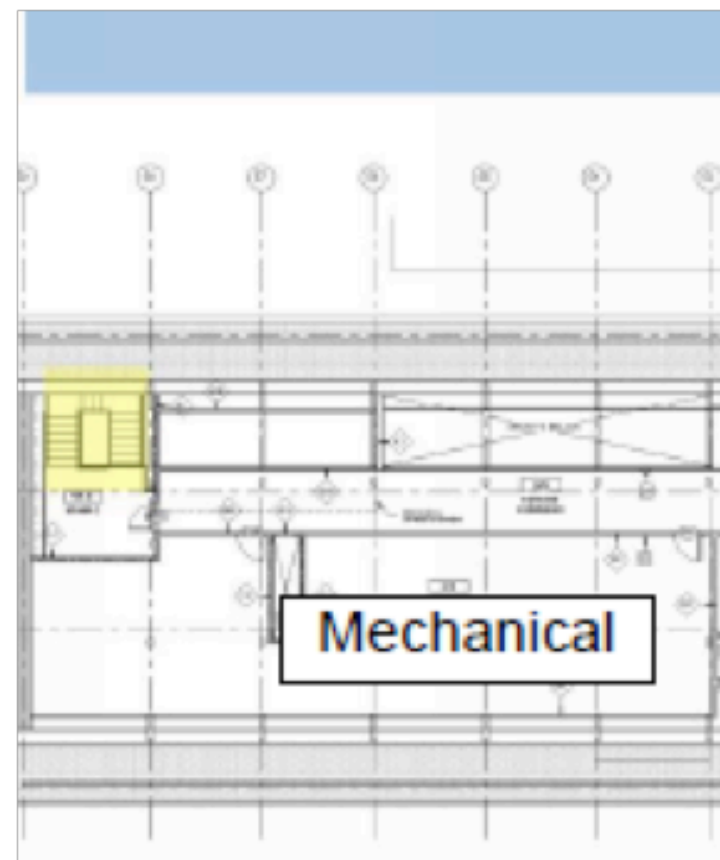
President Cook modified the originals plans to make sure each floor had a staff lounge that included a kitchen, refrigerator and seating.

**At Right:**

- First Floor**
- Health Center

- Second Floor**
- Student Financial Services (everyone co-located for better service).

- Third Floor**
- Mechanical and egress for conference rooms.



- First Floor**
- Home of the Welcome Center, Admissions, Registrars, and the parking clerk.

- Second Floor**
- TRiO, Marketing, Dean of Students, Dean of Curriculum and a dditional office space.

- Third Floor**
- Conference Center.

• This building is on track to be awarded (potentially) LEED gold status.

*What is LEED? LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. Available for virtually all building, community and home project types, LEED provides a framework to create healthy, highly efficient and cost-saving green buildings. LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement.*

## Why You Should Watch The WNBA

by Jamil Sam

The goal of the game isn't to dunk on people, it's to win. Basketball is the same sport regardless of who participates in it at any given time on any given court. Regardless of the race, gender, age, or country of origin of the ball handler, the hoop is still 10 feet tall and he/she shares the court with nine other players during live action. Winning basketball transcends all of the preconceived mental barriers people place on the game based on their limitations and/or overactive imaginations. Middle schoolers want to shoot tumaround fadeaway jumpshots like Kobe Bryant or Michael Jordan, without realizing those players are 6'6 giants with large hands and near unfathomable strength and balance. I find that in trying to teach the game to younger, less athletic players, watching women's basketball is effective because they use the same professional tips that NBA players do, but without possessing physical or athletic tools that are tough to relate to those who did not hit the genetic lottery. Many less experienced or less informed basketball players are under the impression that because women are not as athletic as men or that because they cannot do flashy dunks, they are lesser basketball players when that is simply not true.

Diana Taurasi of the Phoenix Mercury became the WNBA's all-time leading scorer this past season, her 13<sup>th</sup> in the league. At the age of thirty-five Taurasi has achieved many accomplishments and broken many records, but this one takes the cake in signifying who she is (and was) as a player. What stands out to me is how effortless she makes the game of basketball look, which makes sense; anybody who has scored enough points on their peers to become a professional league's all-time leading scorer, has a relative mastery of their craft that should make it seem like a breeze.

Crossover to the men's side and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has stood the test of time (he retired in 1990), to remain the NBA's all-time leading scorer Kareem was all of at least 7 feet and 2 inches. When you factor in the extra inch or two his Chuck Taylors added when he played, he was at least 7'3. He played for 20 years in the league and was known for his effortlessly unstoppable move, the skyhook. True to its name, Kareem could extend off one leg and reach into the sky anywhere within 15 feet from the hoop and flick the ball in, and there was nothing you could do about it.

Standing only six feet-flat Taurasi is tall for a female guard but doesn't have anywhere near physical luxuries

Kareem scored his 38,387 career points with (*Basketball Reference 2017*). On the other hand, she is a professional basketball player and has spent an amount of time perfecting her game that would be unimaginable to the average person. That is how Taurasi is able to exhibit an effortlessness and an aura of unbridled confidence that rivals the likes of Steph Curry, LeBron James, or Kyrie Irving, all proven championship-level playmakers and game managers. In each of the past three NBA seasons, James and Irving have teamed up on the Cleveland Cavaliers against Curry and the Warriors. It was the first time in NBA history that two teams met in the Finals three years in a row with the Warriors taking two of three (Bielik 2017). Taurasi has three WNBA championships with the Mercury, equal to James in his career, despite her playing one season less.

In college she was a national champion with the UCONN Huskies in each of her final three years and is regarded as one of the greatest UCONN players of all time, at a school that has won eleven National Championships since 1995. The more than two decades running of dominance reflects the dominance of coach John Wooden's UCLA Bruins in the 60's and 70's on the men's side, where they won ten titles in a twelve year span. Much like Taurasi, Kareem Abdul Jabbar (then Lew Alcindor) won three championships with the Bruins during his time there. At such a historic school, Taurasi stands out as one of the greatest players to ever come through there, and her list of accomplishments since leaving only serve to confirm that notion. In her fourteen year career, nine times she's made the All-WNBA 1<sup>st</sup> Team and three times 2<sup>nd</sup> Team. The All-league teams are awards chosen after the season to recognize the best performers in the league at their position that season.

As players, we often make the game far more difficult than it needs to be. We get caught up in emotions and "proving ourselves" or "playing our game" and almost forget to just play *the* game. The game is just basketball, not "do-whatever-I-feel-like ball". I think females have a much better grasp and understanding of this concept than do male players, on average. "Hero-ball" as basketball purists like to call it, is the antithesis of the way the game should be played. In my years of experience playing, coaching, or just studying the game, I have found the lead cause of hero ball not to be sheer incompetence (as even some of the NBA's best are prone to

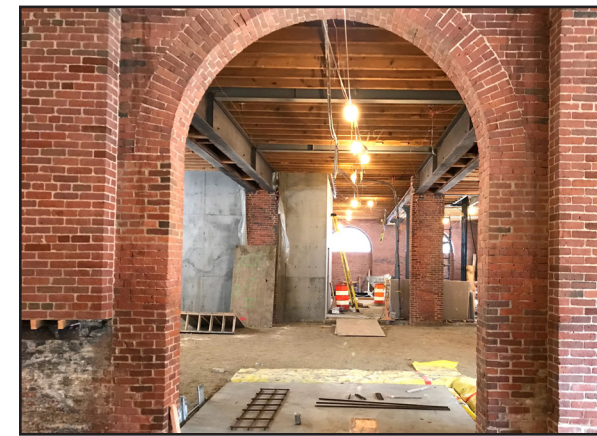
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## A Tour of the Ira H. Rubenzhal Learning Commons



Building 19, the old Armory horse stables, in the process of being metamorphosed into the Ira H. Rubenzhal Learning Commons.



The Learning Commons' east end entrance. Visitors will be greeted with an information booth leading into an eating commons. Or, turning east, visitors will be welcomed into the new library lobby. The library itself will be located on the second floor. Tour hosts Deb Avery (pictured right) and Kerri Kane were our informative guides.



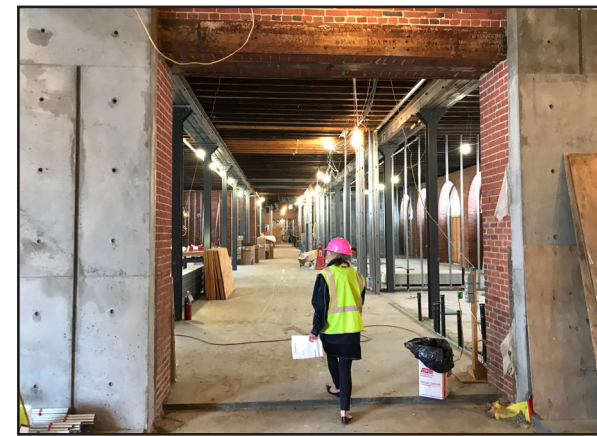
Emerging from the west end of the eating commons, one will encounter various offices including that for Student Activities. The skeletal metal superstructures outline future office dimensions. USB connectors and chargers will be situated throughout this massive, state of the art facility.



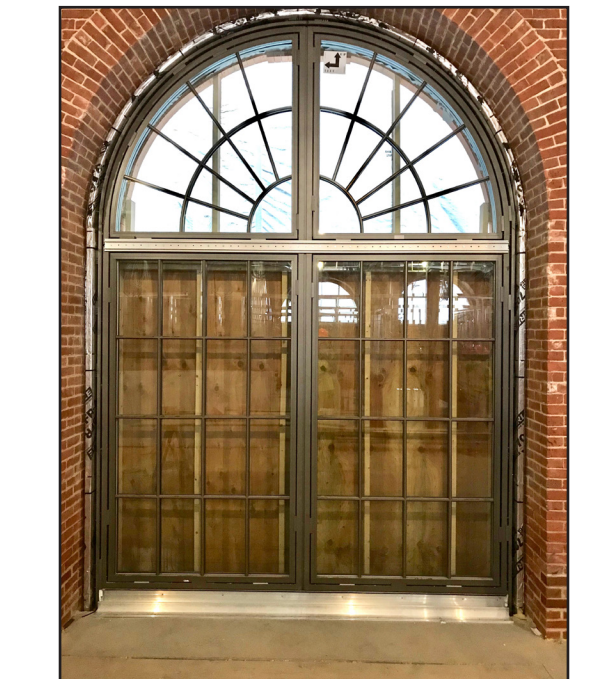
Coils of wire, the connective tissue of STCC's soon to be central hub, unwind towards the west end of the Learning Commons, pointing the way to a bright future for our institution.

Tech Times was recently treated to a tour of the under construction, Ira H. Rubenzhal Learning Commons. It was obvious to all this will be an exciting, state of the art addition to the STCC campus. The new Learning Commons will constitute the nerve center of the STCC campus, upon its scheduled completion in the fall of 2018. The Library, Financial Aid/Registration, an Eating Commons/Student Center, Counseling Services, and Student Activities, among others will be located in the huge structure which dominates the north side of the campus, about as long and wide as one of the great ocean liners of old!

The tour was conducted by Deb Avery, Senior Project manager, Facilities, and Kerri Kane, Director of Facilities Quality and Services. Join us for a virtual tour in the photo gallery that follows. You can also follow along with the accompanying diagrams of the Learning Center detailing the planned locations of various campus services that will result in the Learning Center becoming the central hub of the college. In addition, refer to the graphic that details the talking points of the tour.



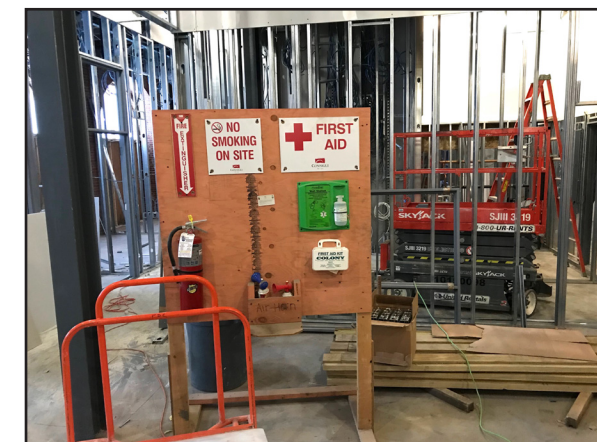
Note the original beams and floor joists in this photo. As much as possible the original architecture of the building will remain preserved and exposed in a marriage of venerable history with 21<sup>st</sup> century innovation.



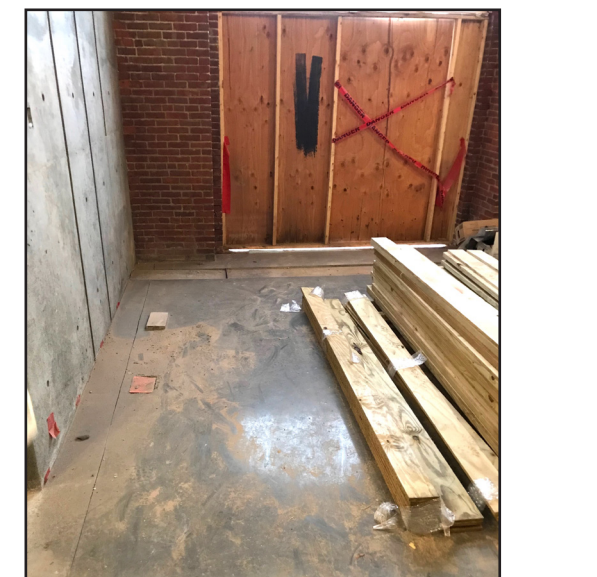
An example of one of the handsome, arched windows that will add light and character throughout the building. Sun exposed windows will be equipped with state of the art, automatic shades for temperature and lighting modification.



Emerging from the west end of the eating commons, one will encounter various offices including that for Student Activities. The skeletal metal superstructures outline future office dimensions. USB connectors and chargers will be situated throughout this massive, state of the art facility.



Moving further west through the Learning Commons, the visitor will encounter the Financial Aid, Registration, and various other offices and storage space. These facilities will provide much improved space and efficiency over their present set-ups scattered about the campus.



A dusty sample of the polished cement flooring that will be handsomely underfoot throughout the ground level of the Learning Commons.

## "Your Reality Is Just As Important As Mine": A Profile of Professor Eric Brown

by Jamil Sam

I strolled to the door and knocked gently just as I was told I could when I started the process a week prior. Eric Brown sat in plain sight with his back to me, watching what looked to be an animated instructional or "think" video. As I walked into the somewhat familiar marble, maroon-rugged room and looked for a place to set my backpack down, I couldn't help but notice the round wooden table placed in the middle of the room with two chairs neatly tucked in at both ends. I'd remembered the computer chair-and-desk combo from my brief meeting with Professor Brown to set up this interview, but the table seemed new. Maybe I just didn't notice it the other day, or maybe he took the time and effort to provide me with this set up and give us both some comfortable sitting and arm space. The table didn't seem to necessarily fit in the room; I'd figured it would serve as an obstacle on most days rather than the useful tool it proved to be today.

"So what questions do you have for me that I won't be able to answer?" he chuckled, just to break the ice I suspect. At this point I could hear Professor Johnson's words in my ear from his lectures on how our interviews would go; some of the enlightened will be eager to give you their time for an interview and will even help guide you through it. Professor Brown seemed to try to quell any of my uneasiness before it really settled into me. I had come to the psychology professor in hopes of gaining some insight into how psychology can be applied in teaching students daily. I dream of becoming a high school teacher who is influential to his students and can help them get the best out of themselves. Life at that age and soon after is very puzzling, but extremely critical so I believe that tapping into students on a level that transcends the books can actually help them succeed later in life more than drilling them to become stern soldiers of fact recall. I explained to Mr. Brown that I had some questions about his teaching background and philosophies to help myself gain more insight into what kind of teacher I wanted to be.

Eric Brown only became a professor at STCC for the first time in 2005 at the age of 58. He does not teach from a book and instead builds from his 40 years of experience in the field of psychology, preferring to show and explain to his students how things "work in real life and not in theory". Previously, he worked



Professor Brown woos an innocent bystander who happens to be his wife, Shelley.

primarily as a behavioral specialist in several different entities. He worked for state institutions and mental hospitals as well as starting his own practice. He also worked in giving advice to school systems as to how to deal with and decrease problematic behavior in students. During his time in the Pathways mental health services program, he provided a level of schooling to the some patients who were an interesting challenge and "took part in some interesting and troublesome behavior". When asked if he saw anything in his childhood that would predict a teaching career, he noted that he came from a family with a history of mental illness and that sparked his interest in the field.

I noticed selflessness about him that I find to be a unifying and almost necessary trait for teachers. He seeks to help others, and his latest career adventure is no different. When I proposed the parallels to teaching and coaching sports, he expounded and noted that both jobs are about getting the best out of the students and getting them to work together as a team. He encourages teachers and coaches to lose their ego and makes a point that "listening to his students is important"; for students to learn properly they need to have their voices heard too. He advocates for teaching emotional intelligence and especially empathy, to "see the other person's reality as just as important as your own". He advises that using "You" statements (statements that begin with the word "you") is ineffective and even counterproductive: "It's the same thing as a coach; if you're always yelling and berating the players eventually they'll just tune you out."

In the classroom he organizes the desks in a horseshoe pattern so that

the students are facing each other and encourages them to interact with each other. He doesn't believe in lecturing so much these days because "You guys can pick up your smart phone and bring up all the information I'm telling you in half a second." Instead he'll pose ethical dilemmas to spur class discussion and essentially have the students take over the day, with him as a guide. He believes that when students are active and engaged in the discussion, they learn more. This was one of his suggestions as to how teachers should learn to drop their ego; when they lecture they end up talking to themselves and students become less actively engaged in retaining the information.

Speaking with Eric Brown a well-versed psychologist, helped me to reinforce some teaching philoso-

phies that I've been experimenting with when I coach basketball. I treat my players as my students in hopes of becoming a more impactful teacher when I finish my schooling. His overtones of selflessness and all-inclusivity stuck in my head as recurring traits among great teachers and I seek to embody those traits to show my students the importance of them. I often wonder if some of the philosophies and ideals I conjure in my head are "correct" or if I'm just thinking pseudo-science to myself, only to later find out that none of them work out in practice. After this enlightening conversation with Professor Brown, I feel much more comfortable in sharing some of the same views that someone with 40 years of experience in the field of psychology has found to be effective methods of teaching. ¶

<<<< Euphoria, cont'd from page 2

sounds like the hoop is just waiting for one wrong bounce to knock itself over and disperse in a big metal heap. I also hated to answer the questions of passersby or to concede the ever-common "Can I get a shot?"

When I'm at Nash, the distractions are fewer and farther between and the atmosphere breeds more creativity for me. Less than five yards behind the far hoop is a humungous tree that I never sit under because of the bug-life that I'm positive it's home to. I often think about sitting under there on a sunny spring day and writing in my journal like I imagine they did "in the old days", but I can never bring myself around to it. I hate the thought of "creepy-crawlies" working their way up my leg stealthily to all my unsuspecting areas. I would rather avoid that situation, but I do crave that sort of nostalgic free-will, fresh air feeling of just running pen across page under the shade with not a care in the world in the moment. According to Daily Infographics, the physical act of writing brings information to the forefront of your mind and triggers your brain to pay close attention to it (Lacy 2013). Writing is said to be therapeutic or stress-relieving, and I would surmise a large portion of that to be because it pours out the writer's unpleasant thoughts that they are usually compartmentalizing too skillfully to properly give themselves the opportunity to address. That river flow of emotion can be relaxing, but I think an overlooked part of handwriting is the rhythmic flow that your hand and

fingers make as they pinch the pen in that intricately personalized way that only you do. I find that particular fine-tuned motor control and focus to be stimulating.

For now (and the foreseeable future) I'll pass on the bug bites, but I do feel that I get that same stimulated artistic feeling every time I walk across the court dribbling the ball on "my" familiar pavement. The sticky touch and roll of the ball off my fingers every dribble, as I shoot it into the ground give me the same euphoric feeling I get when I put pen to paper and let all my thoughts flow onto the page. On that early morning when I laughed and smiled and had no care of who witnessed it, I felt some of the most free and euphoric moments I've had in recent memory. The smile raced around inside me like a whirlpool before jettisoning itself up to my face. If I looked like The Joker so be it, but I would give anything if I could just recreate that feeling ten times over and spread it throughout each day on command. Instead, I'll keep returning in hopes that the feelings of euphoria await me there every time. The Field usually doesn't disappoint.

"Chicopee Culture." Tripasco, www.triposo.com/loc/Chicopee2C\_Massachusetts/culture/background. Accessed 25 Sept. 2017. Lacy, Micaela. "How Does Writing Affect Your Brain?" [Infographic]. Daily Infographic, 21 May 2013, www.dailyinfographic.com/how-does-writing-affect-your-brain-infographic. Accessed 25 Sept. 2017.

<<<Spfld. Armory, cont'd from page 1

The Springfield Armory, at the time the Springfield Arsenal, (an arsenal is a storage unit for weapons, while an armory is a place where weapons are manufactured); also saw a political uprising in 1787. Daniel Shays, a Revolutionary War veteran, led thousands of rebels in an uprising for civil rights and against economic injustices. Shays marched the rebels to the Springfield Armory in an attempt to take hold of the weaponry stored there. The uprising is known today as Shays' Rebellion. This rebellion influenced the federal government to create the US Constitution whereby the power of the federal government was sharply increased, with the intention of preventing any future rebellions against the government.

The deactivation of the Springfield Armory in 1968 led to the buildings being unoccupied. In

1969, the Springfield Technical Institute moved to the vacant Armory. Buildings were renovated into classrooms, giving rise to Springfield Technical Community College. For a short video of the history of STCC please view the following link: <https://www.stcc.edu/about-stcc/history/>

During this time, the Arsenal building opened as a museum operated by a non-profit organization called Friends of the Springfield Armory, Inc. In 1974, the Springfield Armory National Historic Site was authorized by Congress P.L 93-486. In 1978, the Armory was established as National Historic Site.

The historic site sits upon 55 acres, 20 acres are managed by the National Park Service (NPS). Thirty-five acres are managed by Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) and the Common-

wealth of Massachusetts. STCC and the NPS work in collaboration to manage the site as a whole.

Today, the Springfield Armory National Historic Site offers a way to discover the past, not just through the weapons that were developed here, but also through the innovations and technological advancements in engineering pioneered here. The weapons produced at the Armory swayed battlefield field tactics from the War of 1812 to Vietnam. The Armory is a place where the students of STCC can learn about the early origins of their school and the historical use of their classrooms.

Sources: National Park Service. "Springfield Armory National Historic Site Long-Range Interpretive Plan." Springfield Armory National Historic Site Long-Range Interpretive Plan, 2015. Other information was learning on the job from current National Park Service employees and the current volunteers that work at the Springfield Armory.

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it), but rather some sort of childish desire to display bravado or machismo. Needless to say, I don't see many female players with that sort of burning desire to prove their manliness, and it makes the viewing product that much more enjoyable for me. The willingness to "play the game the right way" is almost their only nature as opposed to second nature as it seems to too many male players. ¶¶

Works Cited:  
 "Basketball Statistics and History." Basketball-Reference.com, SportsReference, www.basketball-reference.com/.  
 Bielik, Tim. "Have two teams ever played in the NBA Finals 3 years in a row? Cavs-Warriors are the first 'three-match'." Cleveland.com, AdvanceOhio, 25 May 2017, www.cleveland.com/cavs/index.ssf/2017/05/have\_two\_teams\_ever\_played\_in\_the\_nba\_finals\_3\_years\_in\_a\_row.html.

## STCC Adds New Digital Press to the Graphics Degree Program

The Graphic Communications and Photography Department at Springfield Technical Community College recently installed a new Canon 750C Digital Press. The new digital press is state-of-art and was funded by the Commonwealth.

"The Canon digital press is a standard for many of the printers in Western Mass," Professor Matt Kriftcher, Department Chair, said. "This acquisition offers students the opportunity to experience the latest technology in printing available in today's print industry," Kriftcher said.

The Graphic Communications & Photography Department at STCC offers a curriculum designed to prepare students for careers in printing, publishing, advertising and photography. Degree options include Graphic Design, Photography, and Web Design & Advertising. Graduates with their associate degree might transition into this industry or transfer to a four-year degree course at Central Connecticut State University or Elms College.

Evening courses are also offered in addition to the day program courses. Evening courses being offered during the 2018 spring semester include GAT-175 Airbrushing II, GAT-170 Introduction to Photography, and GAT-160 Introduction to Web Design.

Registration for day and evening courses has begun and will continue through January, 2018.

Courses fill up fast so register soon!

For more information about applying, call the admissions office at 413.755.333 or visit [www.stcc.edu/apply](http://www.stcc.edu/apply).

—STCC Press Release



Professor Matt Kriftcher examines the new Canon 750C Canon Digital Press recently delivered to the Graphic Communications and Photography Department. Photograph by Dariel Lopez.