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Esports competition continues to enjoy increased popularity and rapid adoption, both professionally and at educational institutions. Recognizing the rising importance of esports in the views of current and prospective students, educational institutions are introducing esports programs and clubs, actively recruiting members for their teams, and offering scholarship opportunities.



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Collaboration, Mothering, and Doula Work in Anthropology at Butler University

Julie Searcy, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Butler University, consistently exceeds all conventional expectations for academic success—in teaching, publishing, and service—while simultaneously embracing and amplifying practices that are often undervalued by the academy: openly bringing her identity as a mother to all aspects of her work, focusing on subjects that have traditionally been seen as “women’s concerns,” and engaging in sustained—and quite productive—research collaborations.

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What Colleges and Universities Need to Know when Sourcing Lockers

During the day, college students often need to store their valuables. Individuals in campus health and fitness centers, medical departments, music halls, and athletics centers find their personal lockers in the locker room to be their private sanctuaries. This standard or custom locker serves as the one unique spot on campus—outside of the dormitory—that is designated solely for their use during their college years.

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EDITOR'S LETTER



Hello!

I hope all of you have enjoyed your summer. Here in Alabama, we have been having our typical hot and humid days. While we all complain about the humidity, we realize that this is the tradeoff that we have for enjoying mild winters. Being raised in Northeastern Ohio, I appreciate winter highs of 50 degrees and lows in the low 40s. When I was a boy, Alabama winters would have been seen as shorts and t-shirts weather.

As you look forward to the new school year, each of you have been hard at work preparing your building environments and facilities for the return of students, faculty, and the rest of the staff members. You have been busy renovating, updating, and preparing new buildings and amenities, and I know you are excited to present them to the returning and new members of your campus family.

This thoughtful care is yet another way that private colleges and universities excel in the higher education crowd. You inspire across your amenities: inside the halls of learning, performing arts halls, fitness and recreation centers, athletic facilities, and throughout the beautiful grounds. This broad array of incredible facilities is why we chose a private college for our daughter to attend. The value of the well-rounded education she received far outweighed the cost and continues to serve her well as she nears her thirtieth birthday.

Soon the fall flowers will be in full bloom and the most wonderful of all seasons (Football Season) will be in full swing. Your campuses will fill on Saturdays with visitors, and they will admire the work you have put into design of your campuses as well as being in awe of the beauty that you cultivate with thoughtful design and planning. Now is the time for you to shine as prospective students and parents come onto your campuses, and many will be looking at what you can offer them as prospective students.

We look forward to hearing from you and covering your improvements and expansions. We enjoy learning more about the ways that you all continue to provide facilities that not only meet but exceed expectations for the students, faculty, and staff who are home to throughout the school year, along with the many visitors who cross your grounds each and every day.

Next month will feature our deans' list awards that highlight elite higher education providers; these great companies can help you to achieve your desired result of campus perfection.

Until then, enjoy the heat as we wait for fall and cooler temperatures—

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Collaboration, Mothering, and Doula Work in Anthropology at Butler University

by Cynthia Mwenja, PhD

Julie Searcy, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Butler University, consistently exceeds all conventional expectations for academic success—in teaching, publishing, and service—while simultaneously embracing and amplifying practices that are often undervalued by the academy: openly bringing her identity as a mother to all aspects of her work, focusing on subjects that have traditionally been seen as “women’s concerns,” and engaging in sustained—and quite productive—research collaborations.

Julie began to be interested in the field of reproductive anthropology when she started her master’s program and her first pregnancy at the same time; graduate school became a space to explore the larger experience of pregnancy and motherhood. She went into labor with her first baby right after a seminar on Bakhtin’s “grotesque body” and “vividly remembers thinking about labor as a space of excess embodiment.” After that, academic work was never abstract but always about the fleshy embodied material world. These experiences and realizations, along with her work as a community birth doula, have led to the many avenues of research she continues to develop, all of which explore interactions of birth, race, socio-economic status, and illness. Julie’s record in both research and teaching are “phenomenal,” notes colleague Tom Mould, Professor of Anthropology and Folklore at Butler University. After she served as a lecturer in the department while finishing her doctoral research, her colleagues at Butler recognized her incredible strengths and found a way to offer her a tenure-track position. Tom states that her “teaching is off the charts” and that “she is on fire with research.”

One of Julie’s recent research projects is funded through The Wilma Gibbs Moore Fellowship awarded by Indiana Humanities. Along with longtime collaborator Angela Castañeda, Professor of Anthropology at DePauw University, Julie is pursuing a project titled “Obstetric Racism in Indiana: How Hoosier Doulas Resist Anti-Black Racism in Birth.” Tom points out that this project spotlights race and socio-economic status in the context of birth; this work is both important and relevant in Indiana, where overall Black maternal mortality rates—and rates of other adverse outcomes for Black pregnant and birthing people—are third worse in the nation.

This summer, Julie reports she has been having fun completing extensive interviews for two projects. For the Indiana Humanities project, she explains, she and Angela want to engage in oral histories to capture what the doulas working with Black clients are seeing in the many worlds they straddle—home and hospital, birthing person and nursing staff, Black and white cultures, etc. In one interview, a Black, queer doula described being with a trans man giving birth at a teaching hospital, with residents continually moving in and out

of the birthing space and nurses continually mis-gendering the client. Julie points to the important work queer doulas do as they care for birthing people whose identities are outside of the perceived norms.

In the second project they’re working on this summer, Julie and Angela—along with a colleague, Ellen Block—are looking at how the work of doulas has been impacted by Covid. They recognize doulas are uniquely positioned to speak about the birth experience because they serve clients at home, and at a variety of different hospitals. This summer’s interviews follow up on a related, previous qualitative survey which garnered five hundred responses from twenty-one countries; they’re asking questions such as “How has the pandemic changed your practices?” and “What, if any, virtual care do you now give?” Hospitals have placed new limitations on doulas since the pandemic began, with some hospitals restricting access so that only certified doulas can be with birthing people; some hospitals have gone further, limiting hospital access only to doulas certified through specific programs they have designated. The challenges facing pregnant and birthing people highlight



ongoing racial injustices in Indiana and further afield, and these challenges show the value of exploring the roles doulas can play in advancing reproductive justice.

Embracing Multiple Identities

Early in her career, Angela says, she understood that it was taboo to talk about one's identity as a mother in a university setting. She hopes that administrators can now remember that professors and instructors need to bring their whole selves to work and to feel that all of their identities are valued and seen. Approaches that Julie uses and Angela hopes others will emulate are to “recognize” and “honor” faculty identities, “listen” to their experiences, and “allow” them to be their full, authentic selves in their professorial work.

Angela notes that she and Julie share several identities—they were growing their families at the same time, and they were able to support each other as working mothers in the academy. Angela calls herself “blessed” to have experienced this research relationship which has also grown into a friendship. In “Making Space for Mothering: Collaboration

as Feminist Practice,” published on the *Cultural Anthropology* website, the two authors draw explicit connections between collaboration, feminist concerns, and their identities as “mother-scholars.”

Julie's four children—now fourteen, twelve, nine, and seven—were all born during her years in graduate school. She and her husband took their three older children to South Africa (she was pregnant with their fourth) so she could conduct her dissertation research on how the high rates of HIV infection were affecting pregnant people and their birth experiences. What was clear in this “vibrant, complex place,” she states, was how race clearly dictated the experiences of birth, and what was really troubling was how different the birth experience was between public and private hospital settings. HIV, she explains, was the primary focus of public care, but it was never mentioned in her interviews with those who had been in private health settings. Her interviews showed that HIV—and HIV testing—was the primary focus of prenatal care in the public health clinics; by contrast, the subject didn't even come up for those who had access to private

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PHOTO COURTESY BUTLER UNIVERSITY

healthcare. This research led her to “try to untangle how class and race are tangled up,” as she puts it.

Ironically, Tom points out, while women in the academy are often discouraged from discussing their roles as mothers, they can also often be penalized in student evaluations if they are not “maternal enough.” Tom reports that Julie is “inherently empathetic and sincere,” and these attributes serve her well both in the classroom and in her fieldwork. Building relationships in fieldwork can be tough, Tom says, but Julie’s nature helps bridge the gaps between herself and those she focuses on in her research, as well as with her students.

Tom learned about one of Julie’s practices when they both served as Social Justice and Diversity Fellows at Butler—a group of faculty members who met on alternate weeks throughout the academic year. The Fellows took turns sharing helpful classroom strategies, and one of the approaches that Julie shared focused on helping students to examine their own values, both for themselves and as relating to values embraced by other cultures. Julie’s students had access to a deck of cards, each of which presented one value. During the semester, she had them shuffle the deck from time to time and consider how they might change their own ranking of the importance of different values. Tom notes that this approach is a fantastic way to have students personally engage in the material—getting students to reflect without being overbearing and without dictating a static worldview. He points out that this practice demonstrates Julie’s strengths as a professor.

Embracing Women’s Concerns

Angela points out that it is important to bring female-centered work into academic spaces through publishing as well as by including such information in course content. Such a focus is connected to the care work that doula’s engage in, she explains, and that’s why she and Julie feel that it is valuable to amplify that work. As Julie conducted her field research in South Africa while pregnant, she really understood how “one can’t be disembodied as a scholar.” The people she interviewed saw her simultaneously as a mother and a scholar—but this dual perception never led people in South Africa to see her as “less than”—or her work as somehow less important. In South

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Africa, she also saw firsthand how people are much more open to intergenerational spaces—having children included in a variety of settings is much more normalized there than in the United States.

While many professors and instructors feel they should keep their interests as mothers and about mothers separate from their academic work, Julie brings these interests and attitudes into the classroom, and students respond enthusiastically. According to Tom, Julie gives students in her classes the “space to re-envision their world views” by challenging them to think about who they are—and such self-reflection can fundamentally change students’ lives.

Julie brings her research interests—which necessarily touch on motherhood—into the classroom in a variety of ways. In her Introduction to Anthropology class, she shows the film *Babies* early in the term. This film shows the experiences of four babies in vastly different parts of the world as they

move through their first year of life. She asks the students what they noticed, then repeats the experience near the end of the term; she reports that it’s fun for the students to notice the additional insights they have gained by engaging with the course material throughout the semester.

Julie has doulas and midwives speak to her classes, including one called Reproductive Technologies. This class examines transnational surrogacy, racial dynamics of reproduction, and many kinds of reproductive loss that aren’t often considered in reproductive conversations. She is also overseeing undergraduate researchers working on a Covid project; they observed interviews before conducting interviews of their own, and they will begin coding the data this fall.

Embracing Collaborative Work

Angela points out that collaboration is often undervalued in many academic disciplines,

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Julie seeks to bring the values of collaboration to the forefront, honoring this approach in her research, teaching, and community work. Angela states that she and Julie have collaborated for over a decade, and that she wouldn't have been able to be nearly as productive without their partnership. When they began working together, Angela recalls, she at first thought her role would be as a mentor to Julie as a junior scholar.

particularly as administrators make tenure and promotion decisions. She points out—despite the pervasive emphasis on individual research—that anthropological research is never solitary. Though a single author may be listed, the reality of group effort is revealed in the multiple people authors thank in the acknowledgements sections of their publications. Additionally, Tom says, the nature of anthropological fieldwork is inherently collaborative, both with interviewees and with other scholars. Angela also explains that tenure and promotions committees often try to pin down percentages of work that each collaborator contributed to a publication; this attitude fails to understand the nature of truly collaborative work in which collaborators both fully contribute to every aspect of research and writing. As Angela analogizes, “If we’re playing an instrument, it’s valuable to play with others!”

Julie seeks to bring the values of collaboration to the forefront, honoring this approach in her research, teaching, and community work. Angela states that she and Julie have collaborated for over a decade, and that she wouldn't have been able to be nearly as productive without their partnership. When they began working together, Angela recalls, she at first thought her role would be as a mentor to Julie as a junior scholar. “It quickly became apparent,” she says, “that she

was mentoring me just as much as I mentored her!” Such egalitarian, inclusive collaborations can enrich academia, Angela points out; they can provide information and perspectives often lost in hierarchical power structures that reinforce exclusionary gatekeeping practices.

Julie reports that she knew Butler would be supportive of her whole-person approach to research and teaching when future colleagues spoke openly about their experiences as mothers in the academy at a lunch during her on-campus interview. She is grateful that Butler, from the president and provost on down, encourages and supports her in such work. Angela says that Julie is “One of the most generous people I know—she is heartfelt and sincere in all aspects of her life,” including the classroom, her scholarship, her community work, and how she lives her life. “She gives so much of her time, energy, and whole self” to every endeavor, with threads of generosity and care threading through every aspect of her life and work. Such authenticity—and the university setting that allows and encourages it—is admirable and provides a model for institutions of higher education around the world.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. Cynthia Mwenja teaches Composition and Rhetoric at the University of Montevallo.

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MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

What Colleges and Universities Need to Know when Sourcing Lockers

BY STEVE TROYANO

During the day, college students often need to store their valuables. Individuals in campus health and fitness centers, medical departments, music halls, and athletics centers find their personal lockers in the locker room to be their private sanctuaries. This standard or custom locker serves as the one unique spot on campus—outside of the dormitory—that is designated solely for their use during their college years. A beautifully designed, state-of-the-art locker room can increase enrollment and recruitment, improve facility investments, and enhance the aesthetics of a locker room for years to come. Therefore, when selecting new lockers for a facility, planners must be well-informed on the many choices available so that they can identify the best locker for the institution.

A facility manager is empowered to make decisions that will have an impact on lifecycle costs. These critical judgement calls can save the university a great deal of money over a lifetime of their investment. Initially, planners must analyze how many students will use the space and how many individuals will be using the lockers at any given time. This estimation will determine the available lockers needed daily. Identifying how much space is available and calculating lockers can be a daunting task. List Industries offers design services to help buyers estimate the number of lockers which will fit in the available spaces.

The next step is to determine the location of the lockers and any physical factors that may affect the decision. Facilities with concrete floors, carpeting, or synthetic material all present differently. The type of flooring may play a key factor in where planners choose to place the lockers to maintain the locker room aesthetics.

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Ventilation is also an important topic in a locker room. Locker doors with ventilation offer aeration for items such as damp clothing, athletic gear, shoes, wet towels, or swimsuits. In a high-traffic, high-moisture area near a campus natatorium or shower area, a moisture-resistant phenolic or HDPE plastic locker is highly recommended and a popular choice.

Phenolic is a material that has been around for over thirty years and is commonly used in science classrooms as black countertops for chemical experiments or as bathroom partitions. The composite resin is a hard and dense material that resists mold, mildew, bacteria, corrosion, and odors. It's available in a wide range of laminate colors and is the go-to material for making lockers that are impact resistant and moisture proof. Phenolic lockers carry a twenty-year warranty, which helps boost the institution's return on investment.

An alternate category of lockers are plastic lockers, or HDPE (high density polyethylene). These are moisture proof, mold resistant, and come in a range of styles. There are limited colors and locking systems with this form of locker.

Furniture grade wood is another option. This wood is virtually unaffected by typical

locker room conditions resulting in high levels of moisture. It comes in a variety of colors and styles and is designed to stand up to the wear and tear by today's elite athletes. Modern team lockers can be sized and outfitted with numerous options, including school logos, coat rods, upgraded coat hooks, padded seats with team logos, ventilation inserts, power/USB outlets, and shoulder pad holders. These custom upgrades really sell the program to recruits and make the player's locker feel like home.

Designers must also consider lock choices. In the initial design and budget process, a simple padlock, key lock, built-in lock, digital lock, RFID, or use of a cell phone for access are all options that can be considered and tailored for the design.

Most schools have pass-thru lockers attached to the equipment rooms for game-day uniforms and practice uniforms. Built-in locks can be set up so that the player's locker and pass-thru locker have identical combinations. Memorizing only one combination may simplify things for the player.

The extremely durable and secure metal locker is a great investment. These lockers are available in an assortment of colors, lock options, widths, depths, and heights, with door configurations in wardrobe, box, and

Z-style. Metal lockers have an extensive lifespan and, with the improvements in aesthetics and design, they are far from the old industrial look of the past. Metal lockers in a high humidity environment can be coated using a process called Galvanneal prior to being powder-coated with the paint color. This method is similar to the process of painting new cars. Galvanneal functions as a rust inhibitor and can add another five to ten years to metal lockers.

In years past, locker rooms were often afterthoughts. With modern technology, they can be the focus of a new project or a renovation to set off many new designs not previously possible.



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INTERIOR DESIGN

BY DAVID VINSON, PHD

Interior design is often inspired by the aesthetics of the exterior structure. Art Nouveau is one familiar example, with the Old England Building in Brussels and the Casa Mila in Barcelona as ideal models of how exterior and interior can function in a seamless continuum. Many contributors to interior design literature suggest, however, that something is lost when exterior and interior are so deliberately aligned. Walter Benjamin, for instance, argues that the interior loses its autonomy and becomes highly individualistic. Others express a similar concern—that the potential for interior spaces to adapt and evolve to meet the occupants' needs is sacrificed in the interest of a governing aesthetic.

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Decorating and designing an interior space entails distinct levels of intervention, determining to different degrees the extent to which architecture can change. While interiors can be conceived simultaneously with the building, a distinctive design approach can also make interiors more amenable to changes sparked by shifting attitudes related to functionality and aesthetics.

Across the country, private universities and colleges are exploring how interior design can be put to adaptive re-use. Treating interior spaces as blank canvases means that designers are no longer bound to a building's exterior aesthetics; in turn, they can more freely address the evolving wants and needs of students, faculty, and staff. Creative, adaptive design also serves a key cultural function by reflecting the diversity and values of an institution and its broader community. In this

respect, design can become personalized and meaningful, providing its occupants with a sense of stability and belonging.

Simplicity and Style at Caltech

The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) is known for its world-class training in science, mathematics, and engineering. It is therefore no surprise that innovative technology and design were embraced during the 2018 renovation of the Ronald

and Maxine Linde Hall of Mathematics and Physics. What is surprising, however, is that simple design elements were also utilized to transform the functionality and aesthetics of the building. The renovation serves as an example of creative, adaptive design which certainly embodies the wants and needs of the Caltech faculty and student body.

The 27,000 square-foot project included completely renovating the 1922 building's three main levels, transforming part of the 1931 wing's top level into an auditorium, and then replacing all mechanicals, electricity, and plumbing. Guttled to the slabs and then rebuilt, the interiors addressed several issues. For one, the building's interior was drab and dated—classrooms equipped with rows of tablet-arm seating, plus offices crammed with desks and chairs. There was no furniture plan, and the learning quarters and meeting spaces were inhospitable. Following the renovation, interiors now offer private offices for the departments' professors and postdoctoral

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faculty as well as shared offices for graduate students. Moreover, after discussions with professors about the changes they'd like to see, the project team addressed how the physical act of crossing an office threshold can be intimidating. Their solution was to provide spaces where faculty and students

could meet serendipitously, without structure or intent. Faculty was also adamant about having easy access to blackboards. These are now located throughout the building, and some cover entire walls. Professors at Caltech still write with chalk, they explain, as a form of mind-body communication.

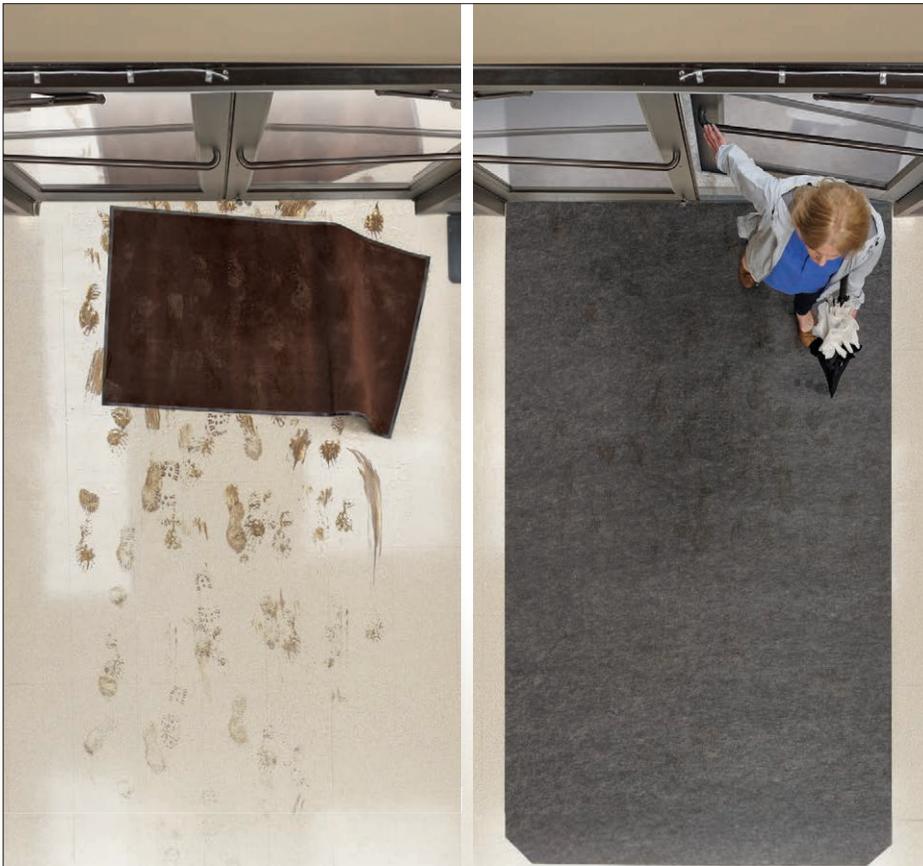
The interior design of the Ronald and Maxine Linde Hall is distinctive and welcoming. Just inside the entry, one encounters chartreuse lounge chairs arranged in a circle, a space that has become a popular hangout for all passersby, not merely official visitors. On the second floor, a hallway widens to accommodate a seating niche wrapped in perforated felt colored in contrasting chartreuse and lime green. Opposite the niche is a coffee bar accompanied by a break area with round chairs, angular benches, and laptop tables, all of which are anchored by hexagonal carpet tiles. The third floor now includes a large events space with folding doors between a classroom as well as a lounge retract. The space likewise benefits from a fortuitous discovery, one uncovered during demolition—striking steel trusses that criss-cross below a sixteen-foot ceiling. The large events space is where speakers, faculty, and students can mingle before and after presentations. Visitors also encounter a series of math-inspired graphics located throughout the building. The entry's floating ceiling is downlit to draw attention to cutouts representing the number pi. Frosted film on glass walls alludes to geometric forms. Even a coffee bar references sine waves via wall tiles. Such design principles are simple but effective in mirroring the culture and values at Caltech.

Award-Winning Interiors at Claremont McKenna College

Located at the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains in California, Claremont McKenna College has challenged preconceived ideas about how fitness centers can be designed for both aesthetics and functionality. For one example, the remarkable Roberts Pavilion is LEED Gold-certified and features design elements so creative that the building has generated nation-wide recognition, earning several awards such as the Interior Design Best of Year Award (2016) as well as honorable mention for the American Architecture Prize (2016). The 144,000 square-foot facility spans three floors and functions as a fitness and events center as well as an athletic center for the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps intercollegiate, intramural, and physical education programs.

Patrons enter through a vaulted glass lobby with a social and study lounge. To the north

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is a two-story 10,000 square-foot fitness studio with equipment oriented toward windows facing the San Gabriel Mountains and the Axelrod Aquatic Center. Located to the west side of the first floor are two large exercise rooms for yoga, aerobics, spin, dance, and other group classes. The south side of the Pavilion's first floor is home to CMS Sports Medicine, which is equipped with two hydrotherapy pools, five trainer tables, and several therapy stations available to all CMS athletes and students. Also accessed from the lobby is a three-story arena that seats upwards of 2,200 visitors. The triple-height venue for the basketball court is underground, while the gym and dance studio are above, hugging the perimeter. The design allows for sunlight to flood the entire building. In fact, sunlight is regarded in the Pavilion's design as a building material, albeit an intangible one. The façade's abundant windows, along with transparencies for exterior and interior partition walls, work together to provide natural light. The façade's system of terra-cotta panels helps to create the Pavilion's energetic curves. Its cream-colored surface is punctuated by vertical strips in the college's colors of white, cardinal red, and golden yellow. High on the wall of the atrium where the reception area is located, the CMS name is spelled out against a backdrop of letters, symbols, and phrases from the ten most commonly-used languages on campus. This display provides a simple but effective means of displaying the diversity of the CMS community.

Finding Design Inspiration across the Country

Private universities and colleges are taking on ambitious interior design projects that embrace functionality and beauty alike. Many colleges and universities beyond Caltech and CMS can provide examples. For instance, Columbia University's Lecture Hall displays a fumed oak herringbone floor and its gorgeous white ceiling designed to mimic sound waves. Another exemplary case is Rice University's Moody Center, which is awash in tawny brick darkened with manganese dioxide and iron. The building's upper mass looms with gravitas, whereas the enclosed ground level appears weightless in contrast. Also included are modernist elements such as structural columns that erupt into starbursts of spokes. The Bloomberg Center at Cornell University stands tall below a photovoltaic canopy that offers astonishing views of the Manhattan skyline. One of the building's unique features is the façade, which is designed to take advantage of natural light, the scenery outside, as well as coverage. With these examples—a few among many—we can see how creative, adaptive design transforms interior spaces. The results can be stunning.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. David Vinson has a PhD in English with specializations in transatlantic literature and cultural studies. He is a committed scholar, teacher, and dad. If you ever meet David, avoid the subject of soccer. His fandom borders on the truly obnoxious.

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DESIGNING THE IDEAL E-SPORTS AUDIO-VISUAL SYSTEM

BY ANTHONY CORTES





Esports competition continues to enjoy increased popularity and rapid adoption, both professionally and at educational institutions. Recognizing the rising importance of esports in the views of current and prospective students, educational institutions are introducing esports programs and clubs, actively recruiting members for their teams, and offering scholarship opportunities. Selecting the right audio-visual (AV) system designed to meet both player and spectator needs is one of the most important decisions planners can make when establishing an esports space.

Importance of Professional Design

As schools and universities develop facilities to support their esports programs, they are discovering that a well-designed AV system can greatly enhance the user experience, building educational skills and innovative problem-solving abilities for players. Esports systems should be purpose-built to meet the unique requirements of the space, the equipment, the players, coaches, and audiences

in the room and around the world. To ensure a comprehensive framework, the AV system must meet several key parameters, including the following:

- **High Performance AV Switching and Distribution**
Supercharged gaming workstations run at high resolutions, refresh rates, and color depths. The AV system must be able to switch and distribute these signals with pristine quality and in many cases, near-zero latency.
- **High Caliber Multi-Window Processing**
Complex gaming spaces can benefit from a modular 4K videowall processor with high-performance scaling and windowing technology to enhance audience engagement. Critical pixel detail is preserved, even when presenting a source at a fraction of the original resolution, with the flexibility to show multiple windows of content, including the audience, player reactions, and gameplay.

- **Robust Sound Reinforcement and Speech Intelligibility**
Sound plays an integral role in the esports experience. Flexible audio signal processing, mixing, and powerful amplification can ensure audio is heard clearly and intelligibly within the space. Dante-enabled products are recommended to distribute digital audio over local and wide area networks, as well as routing audio to recording devices within the system.
- **Automation and Ease of Use**
Esports AV systems can be complex, so an intuitive, easy-to-use control system is critical since it allows coaching staff to focus on the athletes instead of system operations. A control system enables automation of common tasks such as source selection to deliver content to the appropriate displays, powering the system on or off, adjusting audio levels, lighting, camera feed selection, and easily switching to another mode to support additional uses of the space. Being

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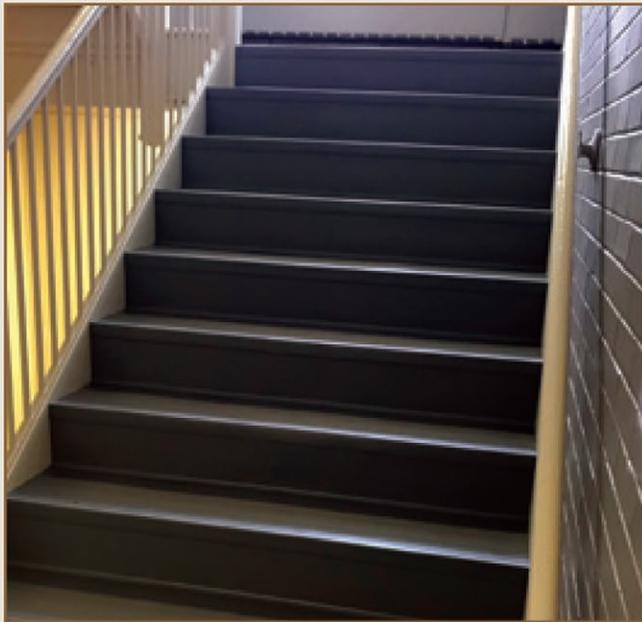
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able to manage and remotely monitor these processes in real-time streamlines operation by greatly simplifying tasks.

- **Futureproof AV Designs**

Since gaming technology changes rapidly, AV systems must be agile to keep up with the demands of future gaming requirements.

- **Design Considerations for the Space**

Esports players compete in virtual cyberspace. Their playing fields exist inside computers and on networks. Esports would not exist without electronic technology; indeed, the term esports is shorthand for *electronic sports*. Venues vary in scale and complexity from smaller practice spaces to large arenas. Here are important factors to consider when designing network-based AV systems for these facilities:

- **Types of Gaming**

Is the space for practice, or competition? Both types of facilities use high-performance computers and player displays. Competition adds requirements for large displays or videowalls, powerful audio systems for in-room fans, and low-latency internet streaming connectivity for teams competing on a global scale and fans following the live action worldwide.

- **Multipurpose or Dedicated Venue**

Will the space be used for purposes other than esports, such as serving as a classroom or lecture hall? AV systems include intuitive control that allows non-technical instructors to easily convert the room's video and audio to accept multimedia lesson material from lectern sources such as a guest laptop or a document camera.

- **New Construction or Existing Space**

Will the project include building a customized venue from scratch, or simply repurposing an existing room? If the project includes new construction and budget isn't a limiting factor, the room can be outfitted with accommodations completely customized for high-performance gaming, including gaming chairs and tables with built-in computer cable routing; videowalls, surround sound, and comfortable seating for audiences; HVAC sized to keep everyone comfortable, accommodating heat loads from equipment and crowds; power and network cable infrastructure capable of handling high electrical and data loads, etc. As with any remodeling project, if an existing space is being converted, compromises will be necessary. Planners should

take care not to skimp in areas that have a direct impact on the gaming experience such as the network and the AV setup.

Recommendations for Creating Winning Esports Spaces

- **High Performance Gaming Computers and Peripherals**

Whether for recreation, training, or competition, gaming computers are in a class of their own. Professional esports facilities rely on powerful desktop computers that have more cooling capacity, multi-output graphics cards, and 24" to 32" gaming monitors.

- **AV Infrastructure**

A robust infrastructure is vital to accommodate all the signals sent throughout the facility. Signal transport technologies include copper, fiber, and streaming, all of which help maintain unaltered end-to-end signal paths. AV systems are tailored to the type of gameplay taking place in the facility, based on game specifications and how the facility is being used—local practice, training, coaching, or competitive play. Tips for a well-designed infrastructure that meets key requirements include:

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Video Latency Player: input should register from source to display with zero lag and latency. Methods for minimizing video latency can include using high-performance cabling for longer cable distances, along with AV signal extension, switching, and distribution products.

Video Resolution and Refresh Rates: Dual output gaming PC video cards typically drive both outputs at the same refresh rate. It's important to prevent video cards from throttling fast gaming monitors to accommodate the lower refresh rates of AV systems. Planners should consider downscaling the video card output to the AV system using a video scaler to accommodate the native refresh rate of the switching and distribution equipment. This strategy keeps the competitors' monitors running at near-zero latency while providing audiences with high-quality images and imperceptible lag, whether watching on local screens or streaming online.

AV for Practice Facilities: Ideally, practice facilities are dedicated spaces with multiple game consoles and gaming computers. In a typical AV configuration, the HDMI output of each console drives two gaming monitors, one for a player and the other for a coach. Seated side-by-side and watching the same action, the player and coach interact in real time to assess skills and plot tactics. The coach also has AV controls to route gameplay from one or more players' game console to wall-mounted displays for wider viewing during team drills. High-resolution, high-fidelity video and audio are distributed uncompressed over fiber optic cabling to maintain maximum image and sound quality. Streaming media processors enable recording and outbound streaming of gameplay to audiences on popular gaming platforms like Twitch.

• **AV for Arenas**

These venues are outfitted with high-speed internet, large videowalls, special-effects

stage lighting, concert-caliber sound systems with sophisticated sound mixers, and multi-camera setups under control of directors running live-action production switchers. AV systems include switching and distribution equipment capable of 4K or higher video resolution. To support user interaction with arena technology, a control system comprised of controllers linked to touch panels with intuitive user interfaces is situated in a broadcast studio off the main gaming floor so as not to distract players. The studio also originates live streaming action feeds to specialty gaming platforms and sports broadcast networks.

• **Network Infrastructure**

The network must be strong enough to support the digital action of all the gamers playing simultaneously. Slow connections will frustrate players as well as spectators who are viewing the broadcast. Also, planners need to address any other IT network requirements or policies to avoid productivity impacts.

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The growth of esports and many types of supporting venues brings opportunities for educational institutions to attract new students and build a stronger community and brand. Delivering optimal experiences for those on the “field,” as well as those in the “stands” is imperative.

The growth of esports and many types of supporting venues brings opportunities for educational institutions to attract new students and build a stronger community and brand. Delivering optimal experiences for those on the “field,” as well as those in the “stands” is imperative. Esports relies on an extensive mix of specialized equipment, much of it using cutting edge technology, that must meet strict requirements to qualify for use in tournaments.

To ensure an esports design that will elevate an institution and keep it competitive, planners should anticipate that demands will continue to grow on the AV infrastructure of the esports venue, including audiovisual production capabilities and network. Planners need to think for the future, allowing sufficient performance margin and scalability in the AV system and network to ensure that players maintain a competitive edge and that audiences stay engaged. Administrators must engage the

right technology partner to examine the best approaches and cost considerations for AV distribution, scalability, and futureproofing. Additionally, designers need to always keep the users—players and audiences—front of mind when making design decisions. Planners should keep things as flexible, streamlined, and intuitive as possible to make the esports facilities state of the art, user-friendly, reliable, and exciting.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Anthony Cortes is the Director of Sales and Marketing, Education Classroom Systems, for Extron. He is responsible for the development and execution of all classroom programs. Anthony’s extensive work with universities and education resellers gives him unique insights on the current state and future direction of classroom AV systems. www.extron.com/esports. For esports project assistance, contact esports@extron.com

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Laboratory Fume Hoods

PLANNING FOR SAFETY

BY KASEY FULMER

Administrators researching options for new lab spaces will soon realize that the possibilities are truly endless. Designing a new lab space or renovating an existing lab space requires special attention to detail from start to finish.

Each lab will have various new pieces of cabinetry, equipment, and furnishings to go along with a specialized mechanical system, new plumbing, and a network of electrical requirements. Many of these elements require straightforward decisions, but fume hoods are one of the only pieces of equipment found in new labs that have an impact on almost every other decision. If certain processes that require a fume hood are going to be performed, getting the fume hood integration right is a top lab safety design consideration. This article covers responsibilities in lab planning, important items to highlight when determining where to place a fume hood in a lab, and types of fume hoods that can meet the specific needs of different types of labs.

Chemical Hygiene Plan

When developing a strategy to accommodate the safety needs of a laboratory, the Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) is the ideal place to start. According to the Code of Federal Regulations (specifically CFR 29 1910.1450), the Chemical Hygiene Plan is “a written program developed by the employer which sets forth procedures, equipment, personal protective equipment, and work practices that are capable of protecting employees from the health hazards presented by hazardous chemicals when used in that particular workplace.” The CHP is required by the Code of Federal Regulations “where hazardous chemicals... are used in the workplace” and, as the definition states, is the responsibility of the facility. This legally-required document is developed by performing

a thorough risk assessment for the practices in a lab, and it concludes with specifics needed for all laboratory equipment, including fume hoods, to ensure the safety for the laboratory personnel. The CHP will likely contain information discussed in the following sections and will be an excellent resource for any lab as a robust safety document.

Importance of Fume Hood Placement

The placement of a fume hood in a lab can significantly impact its overall layout. Fume hoods are safety devices that offer protection to laboratory personnel who are handling potentially dangerous fumes, vapors, and aerosols; the fume hoods do their work by simply moving air through the hood interior. For this reason, doorways, high-traffic

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The placement of a fume hood in a lab can significantly impact its overall layout. Fume hoods are safety devices that offer protection to laboratory personnel who are handling potentially dangerous fumes, vapors, and aerosols; the fume hoods do their work by simply moving air through the hood interior. For this reason, doorways, high-traffic walkways, supply air registers, and even the placement of other hoods must be considered when placing a fume hood. All these factors can affect the level of protection a fume hood can offer.

walkways, supply air registers, and even the placement of other hoods must be considered when placing a fume hood. All these factors can affect the level of protection a fume hood can offer.

Exposure Control Technologies, Inc. (ECT, Inc.) published a resource titled *Laboratory Airflow Distribution*, which is an excellent reference document for anyone planning a lab around the placement of fume hoods. This document highlights several key pieces of information that will allow planners to avoid unnecessary lab space planning problems.

The first consideration is to avoid placing a fume hood next to a doorway. Not only do doors provide a location for high foot traffic, but adjoining rooms are often pressurized differently, so opening and closing these doors can cause complications for a fume hood if it is not placed a safe distance away. The next consideration is that fume hood openings should be a safe distance away from high-traffic aisles. This placement not only

creates a safer working environment for any personnel working in the hood, but it also helps avoid exposing fume hoods to turbulent air created by the movement of bodies; such movement could cause the hood to lose containment.

Additionally, every room needs air to be supplied into the space, but air supply registers should be located at a proper distance away from the hood opening. Air from these registers often moves at a high rate of speed and can easily disrupt airflow into a fume hood. Planning for these registers to be placed in more optimal locations will ensure the fume hood is able to contain as designed. Finally, planners need to consider where other fume hoods will be placed in the lab. If two fume hoods face one another, they could compete for air, causing one or both fume hoods to lack access to the air needed to perform safely and effectively. Proper placement of fume hoods and other equipment will help ensure the safety of everyone in the lab.

Fume Hood Types

Determining the proper type of fume hood needed for a new lab space is equally important as determining where it is going to be placed. Different procedures may require different types of fume hoods, based on what is being done in the hood and what materials are handled in them. Selecting the proper type of hood ensures that the users will be safe, that sensitive equipment will be protected, and that the fume hood will last. For certain procedures, such as ones including the use of perchloric acid or radioisotopes, this decision becomes straightforward; labs need fume hoods specialized for those applications. Choosing a fume hood for other types of lab work may require a little more research and consultation.

First, planners need to think of dimensional requirements. These requirements could be determined by the size of a lab or the size of equipment to be placed in the fume hood. Fume hoods are typically very large, tall pieces of equipment that are placed on top of cabinetry, so labs with a short ceiling may require a fume hood designed for smaller spaces. Equipment within a hood also plays a big role in the size of fume hood needed. For instance, for six inches of clearance in the front and back of the equipment is typically needed to promote proper airflow within

the interior. If the equipment placed in the fume hood is large, the hood needs to be deep enough to safely house it.

In addition to dimensional requirements, materials of construction are key to having a fume hood that will last. Before deciding on a fume hood, planners should make sure the chemicals being used are compatible with the hood's materials of construction. For instance, planners for labs using nitric acid should avoid selecting a hood that has an interior composed of coated or stainless steel, choosing a fiberglass polyester or PVC-lined fume hood instead. Improper planning on the material and type of fume hood can lead to a premature need to replace a corroded hood.

Finally, in many lab spaces, emphasis is placed on fume hoods that operate using less air than conventional hoods. These high performance fume hoods can serve many purposes, such as helping a lab meet various sustainability requirements or replacing a hood in an old lab where there are limits on how much air can be exhausted. Labs with these types of requirements will need hoods that can contain contaminants at a high level while having reduced air volume, as other types of hoods may not offer sufficient protection. Every lab is different, so identifying the correct type of fume hood for a lab's needs will go a long way in providing the safest environment possible.

With all the details to consider, the process of designing a lab to include a fume hood can feel like an uphill battle. After all, the fume hood needs to be properly applied to offer optimal protection to those using it. Getting ahead of the planning by outlining a Chemical Hygiene Plan and defining what a lab needs to be safe is the only way to proceed; this approach will make the process simpler and maximize the safety in the campus laboratory environment.



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Fume Hood Product Specialist, specializes in fume hoods, furniture, and exhausters

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A modern restroom interior featuring a long, white, rectangular vanity with multiple gold-colored faucets. The walls are clad in dark, textured stone panels. Three hanging green plants in gold-colored holders are suspended from the ceiling. The floor is made of light-colored wood-look planks. The lighting is warm and focused on the vanity area.

Rethinking Restrooms

IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

BY KRIS ALDERSON

The expectations for the design, cleanliness, functionality, and safety of all types of commercial facilities have undergone a transformative experience in just a few years. Restroom design strategies, technology, and materials that were progressing in popularity just ten years ago have been fast-tracked, in large part, by the coronavirus pandemic and growing consumer demand. Just as 9/11 changed air travel and the iPod transformed how we listen to music, the coronavirus pandemic will forever change public bathroom design and how people perceive—and respond to—restrooms' cleanliness and safety.

In particular, public restrooms in educational settings—shared spaces that are typically high-traffic, high-use, and high-touch—have drawn a significant amount of infection control consideration. Not only do restrooms contain multiple touchpoints necessary for activating restroom fixtures and doors, but they have also recently come under the microscope for indoor air quality issues, largely due to the dreaded “toilet plumes” that contain airborne contaminants such as Covid-19.

Seventy-eight percent of American adults say they are more conscious about germs as a result of the coronavirus, according to the Healthy Handwashing Survey conducted by Bradley Corporation. Further, in school buildings, the top three places that high school students are most concerned about coming into contact with germs are: school restrooms (63%); classrooms (50%); and the cafeteria (42%).

Hybrid Learning and Building Design

In the broader sense, higher education learning institutions are looking for ways to meet

students’ needs and adapt to hybrid learning experiences. Sixty-eight percent of students and seventy-four percent of educators want a hybrid learning model that combines both in-person and remote learning methods, according to 2022 Gensler’s Design Forecast. Therefore, elevated, user-focused designs are being employed by higher education to attract and retain students when they are present in campus settings.

As students look to schools not just as places of learning but as places to feel safe, engaged, and included, there will be an ongoing emphasis on educating and catering to individual students and their well-being. To adapt to the needs of students as Covid rates fluctuate, universities are integrating the concept of health and wellness into campus designs. In restrooms, specifically, they are paying closer attention to details in these spaces, such as how clean they look and smell, whether they are stocked with supplies, how easy they are to navigate without touching surfaces, their overall functionality and convenience, and how private and safe they feel.

Gender-Neutral Restrooms

Another increasingly important upgrade is creating access to gender-inclusive restrooms. As students and campuses advocate for a more inclusive and open climate, there are now more than one hundred and fifty colleges and universities that have added gender-inclusive restrooms on campus, and more have them in the works, according to the Education Advisory Board. While the most efficient way to create gender-inclusive restrooms is to convert existing single-occupancy restrooms, a number of institutions are now opting to build multi-stall gender-inclusive restrooms.

Either way, for these gender inclusive restrooms to serve their purpose, they must be easily accessible from all areas of the campus. Additionally, many state and local building codes determine the number of men’s and women’s plumbing fixtures a given building needs without regard to gender-inclusive spaces. Therefore, converting a men’s or women’s restroom into a gender-inclusive one may take

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a building out of compliance. Keeping an updated inventory of all restrooms on campus can help avoid renovating restrooms that are required to meet the applicable standards.

Improving Operational Efficiency

Increasing operational efficiency also ranks high for restroom upgrades. Over-stretched maintenance staffs are on the lookout for restroom products, technologies, and features that optimize maintenance, cut costs, and make their jobs easier. Restroom products with maintenance indicators, IoT connectivity, A/C power (vs. batteries) and vandal-resistance features considerably improve and simplify maintenance. While expectations and performance specs for campus washrooms are high, the performance of today’s products, materials, and layout strategies have followed suit.

Hands-Free Technologies

Touchless technology eliminates touchpoints, reduces germ accumulation on restroom surfaces, and is in high demand by users

because, simply, they don’t want to touch things in restrooms. Seventy-six percent of high school students believe it is important that school restrooms have touchless fixtures, while eighty-four percent of adults echo that sentiment for access to touchless fixtures in all public restrooms.

In fact, Americans view touch-free technology as the number one feature that makes them feel safer from germs in restrooms. Touchless features are also Americans’ most requested improvement in restrooms. More cleaning/restocking takes second place.

The top touchless restroom features considered most important to users are faucets, soap dispensers and flushers. “Under any circumstance, using touchless fixtures helps to inhibit the spread of germs in restrooms and buildings,” says medical microbiologist Michael P. McCann, Ph.D., professor of biology, Saint Joseph’s University. “The more we avoid restroom touchpoints, the healthier and easier our operations will be.”

Touchless Fixtures and Maintenance

In just the past few years, the mechanicals used in sensed technology have been significantly improved. While some older touchless models include sensors that deliver spotty soap and water activations, today’s designs incorporate advanced sensing technology to ensure continuous and reliable washing.

From an operational efficiency standpoint, today’s touchless fixtures are easier to keep clean, maintain, and service than manually activated fixtures. In addition to less soap “misfires” and splashes leftover in and around the basin, touchless fixtures and accessories help reduce waste since they only activate when a user is present and can be programmed to dispense a pre-determined amount of soap, water, or paper towels. In addition, automated technologies can be easy to retrofit into a current restroom space.

All-in-one handwashing fixtures designed with integrated soap, faucet, and hand dryer help water containment in the handwashing

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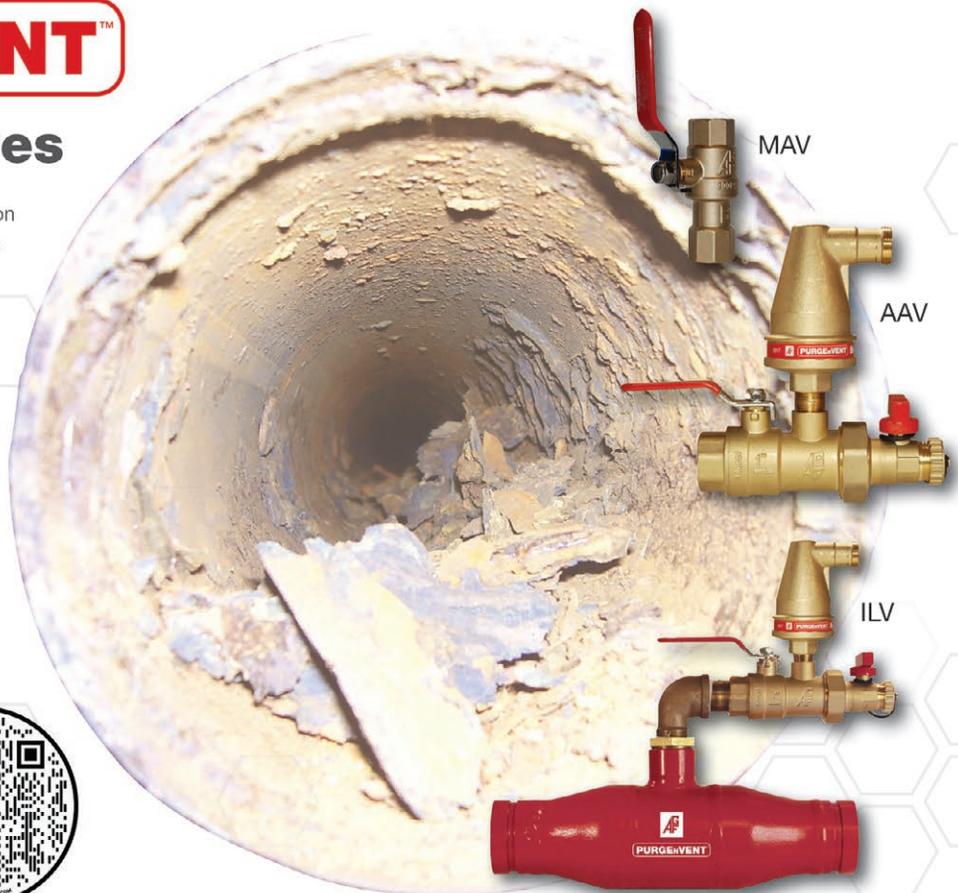


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basin. Specifically, the hand dryer is engineered to work with the basin to keep water in the basin and prevent water from dripping from hands onto the user, walls and floors, which is maintenance intensive and can cause slips and falls.

Touchless high-speed hand dryers can also help guard against excessive amounts of paper towels littered on the restroom floor. If using paper towel dispensers, planners can opt for models constructed of ABS high-impact material, which is not easily damaged and features reliable touch-free activation and jam-free operation.

Germ-Resistant Surface Features

For sinks, smooth and nonporous materials with seamless construction like solid surface and natural quartz look beautiful, help prevent bacteria and mold accumulation, and are highly durable and difficult to vandalize. They can be easily cleaned, disinfected, repaired, and reused, plus they have a longer lifecycle. There are no seams, so there are no unsightly gaps or grout lines to detract from the handwashing space or to accumulate dirt. These sustainable materials are also cast-formed so they may be specified in many attractive shapes.

Another benefit of cast-formed basins is that

they can accommodate multiple users at one time—a big plus for campus restrooms that service a high volume of users during peak times. Some multi-user handwashing models have the look and feel of individual sinks, while others have increased space between the handwashing areas to allow for social distancing while washing hands. Other single-station units combine a taller sink with a lower sink in an interesting wave design to comply with ADA requirements.

For soap and faucet fixtures, PVD coatings are not only a more sustainable way to finish metals than traditional electroplating, but they are also inherently antimicrobial. These popular and attractive finishes are produced with physical vapor deposition (PVD), an advanced process that creates a molecular bond to the fixture, creating a resilient coating that will not corrode or fade. Some manufacturers offer a variety of PVD finishes to complement any restroom design.

Space Planning and Traffic Flow

European restroom models with gender-neutral layouts—stalls forming a perimeter around communal washing stations with open circulation—are gaining popularity in commercial restrooms. A parallel can be drawn between the

benefits of a restroom planned to be gender-neutral and planned to address Covid/germ concerns.

Many colleges and universities are ahead of the game in facilitating restroom traffic since campus restrooms have already adopted open design elements like doorless, S-curved entryways, which encourage one-way traffic and minimize cross-traffic.

Placement of handwashing features can also support user traffic. As mentioned earlier, all-in-one handwashing models with smart soap, faucet, and dryer keeps handwashing elements in one space so there's no need to walk across the restroom in search of soap or water, reducing cross-traffic and water dripping from hands onto floors and walls.

Optimizing restocking and refills is another way to enhance traffic flow. For example, soap refills for multi-user sinks can be messy and time intensive. A new soap dispenser design features a multi-feed system that is a maintenance game changer. The system is ergonomically easy to refill and supplies soap to up to six dispensers at once, reducing downtime. It also features a smart sense system with LED light indicators to display low soap and battery, also making maintenance more efficient.

Today's restroom equipment manufacturers offer a host of products designed to meet the evolving needs of college and university campuses. As campuses rethink their restrooms, they can consider many strategies for making these spaces more hygienic, maintainable, and functional. As the pandemic stretches on, these new priorities that provide users with a healthy and safe public bathroom experience are likely here to stay.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Kris Alderson, MBA, LEED AP, is a senior marketing manager for Bradley Corporation of Menomonee Falls,

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Clark Breaks Ground on the Center for Media Arts, Computing, and Design

BY MELISSA HANSON; ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED 28 APRIL 2022 ON CLARKNOW (CLARKNOW.CLARKU.EDU)

Clark University today broke ground on the Center for Media Arts, Computing, and Design, the planned home for the Becker School of Design and Technology, the Department of Computer Science, and programs within the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. President David B. Fithian ('87) welcomed a crowd of faculty, staff, students, trustees, and local officials who gathered beneath a tent near the outskirts of the Woodland Street site where excavation is currently taking place. He emphasized that the academic pursuits occurring in the new

Betsy Huang, associate provost and dean of the college, noted that “to truly practice and embody interdisciplinarity, we have to not only evolve our curriculum but also reconfigure the spaces within which we do that work. The ideals of interdisciplinarity and the core values of our liberal education are baked into this building and this center’s structural DNA. As she notes, “We all know the sparks that happen when we put people of great creativity, intellect, and decency in the same space, working side by side, learning from each other, building trust and community,

The building will include a multi-floor tiered classroom, a multimedia gallery, a robotics lab, a data science lab, teaching and collaboration spaces, and a video game library for researching interactive media and playing games, among other features.

Wednesday D’Angelo ('22), a student in the Becker School of Design and Technology, and Dilasha Shrestha ('22), a computer science major, spoke of their enthusiasm for Clark’s newest space. “I think this new building will draw students from across the University to take classes and collaborate on different projects and ideas,” Shrestha says.

The building will be laid out in two “wings” clad in a grid of metal panels. The layout of the building and grounds will form a new academic quadrangle, adding additional green space to the campus. Floor-to-ceiling windows will overlook the new landscaping.

The University is pursuing LEED Gold certification for “green” construction and operation. The building will be Clark’s first to utilize geothermal energy as a primary source for heating and cooling. It also will contain 100 percent all-gender restrooms, and meet, if not exceed, goals for workforce and contractor diversity, according to President Fithian.

The project represents not just an investment in students, faculty, and staff, he says, but also in the community. The Center “enhances Clark’s ability to attract and retain more of the talented individuals who will contribute to our local economy and who may well remain in Worcester after their time at Clark,” he says.

Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty and City Manager Edward Augustus Jr. laud Clark for its sustained commitment to the city and inspired partnership with the Main South neighborhood. “Clark University has really set the pace for colleges and universities throughout the United States in terms of how they partner with their host community,” Augustus says. “They do authentic work with their host community, not just one-off projects, but things that are integral to who they are as a university, to the culture on the campus, in the classroom, and in the community.”

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building will result in connections and collaborations across multiple disciplines. “When we think about our facilities, and especially our new buildings, we don’t just think about containers of activity but rather purpose-built spaces that encourage collaboration, convening, cooperation, and even collisions—that is, chance encounters of people from different disciplines, departments, and different ways of thinking,” Fithian says. “The building soon to come out of the ground behind me will have many of just those types of spaces. It will bring together different departments and programs with evident synergies but also the potential for new creative instigations and alchemy.”

The four-story, 70,000-square-foot building, with a targeted opening of Fall 2023, will be located just southeast of the Strassler Center, between Woodland and Hawthorne streets, and its main entrance will be oriented toward the Goddard Library.

breathing the same air, and feeling the life of the different and the new.”

Ayers Saint Gross, an internationally recognized, employee-owned design firm, is leading the design process and has facilitated extensive engagement with Clark faculty, students, and staff to envision the building and the functionality of space within it. The firm is also Clark’s partner on the comprehensive Campus Design Initiative, which offers a strategic blueprint for reimagining the University’s buildings and grounds. The construction work is being done by Shawmut Design and Construction. “More than just a wonderful new addition to our campus, this project symbolizes a new philosophy and era for Clark, not only to envision what is possible, but to make it a reality,” says Ross Gilman ('81), chair of the Board of Trustees. “This is the first of what I know will be many changes made at Clark during David’s term.”

5 Creative Ways to Manage Campus Visitors



Hosting groups from outside of the institution throughout the year and during breaks presents a great opportunity for many campuses to increase revenue. However, managing the facilities and needs of said groups can be challenging. But it doesn't have to be. Using a campus ID management system can be a great way to manage temporary access needs, dining plans and more.

Here's five ways your campus ID system can help:

1. All-Inclusive Summer Camps

Ranging from pre-teens to PhDs, there are countless opportunities to host summer camps at your campus – athletics, educational, recreational, you name it. With your campus ID system, you can create all-inclusive experiences. Whether the camp is put on by an internal department or an outside organization is renting space, campus IDs can be set up to access lodging (using dorms as hotel rooms), restrict or grant entry to buildings and labs, and administer meal plans through campus dining halls. By managing all access and dining through the ID management system, you can easily pull reports and create invoices based on actual usage.

2. Daily Conference Groups

With all the continuing education credits needed for many professions, it's no surprise that conferences remain popular. And the open facilities at many higher education institutions during breaks make them a perfect fit to host programs for continued education. Similar to camps, using the campus ID can be a great way to manage access during specific hours to buildings and meeting rooms, as well as breakfast and lunch needs through meal plans. Scanning attendees into classes/sessions and for meals provides accurate reporting on attendance to conference organizers.

3. Temporary Meal Plans

Regardless of the type of event your campus may host, you can create temporary meal plans to accommodate visitors' needs. Some groups might opt for unlimited visits to the dining hall, while others may want to limit to one swipe per meal per person. Others may want to give a per diem amount in the form of a declining balance account. With any of these methods, you can craft estimates based on assumptions, but provide invoices based on actual usage from the group. Over time, with more data on group types, size and meal plans usage, it becomes easier to accurately estimate how much event organizers should budget for meals.

4. Orientation Experience

Providing new incoming students with positive, welcoming experiences is key to setting students up for success throughout their collegiate journey. Orientation is one of the first places new students experience campus and that should include their campus ID. Beyond making sure each student gets their ID, use it during orientation to familiarize students with how they will use their ID

throughout their time at school: access to dorms, preloaded declining balance to buy school merchandise, meal plan, checking items out from the library and more.

5. Construction Staff Management

We all know school breaks are when campuses become construction central. As it becomes more important to know who is on campus at any given time, it may be necessary to account for temporary workers such as construction crews. For crews that will be returning daily for weeks or months, consider creating personalized ID cards so you can see who is on campus each day. For personnel that will only be there for one day, visitor passes are perfect.

Managing Costs of Physical Cards

Temporary cards have the tendency to walk away. Visitors forget to turn them in, they get lost, they get thrown away, etc. Additionally, if the temporary ID is printed as a visual ID with a picture, there's no way to reuse that specific card. Institutions are getting creative with managing costs for temporary IDs including using more disposable materials such as paper cards (like mass transit passes) and wrist bands that include the same technology as more common plastic ID cards.

Temporary ID management becomes even easier with mobile IDs. If your campus is ready to go mobile, you can skip the plastic card printing and visitors can use their mobile phone to open doors, use meal plans and declining balances, and more.

Benefits to managing campus guests and activities with the campus ID

Lots of examples exist of where and when the campus ID could be used beyond standard operations to control access, provide meal plans, and other transactions. But the primary benefits are actually on the backend.



By managing external groups and programs through your campus ID solution, operations for access control, meal plans, and declining balances are streamlined in one place, helping visitors and staff accomplish more. Additionally, with the comprehensive reporting available, aggregated data from summer camps, conferences and other activities can help predict future needs for the campus and inform decisions that create more efficient operations.

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