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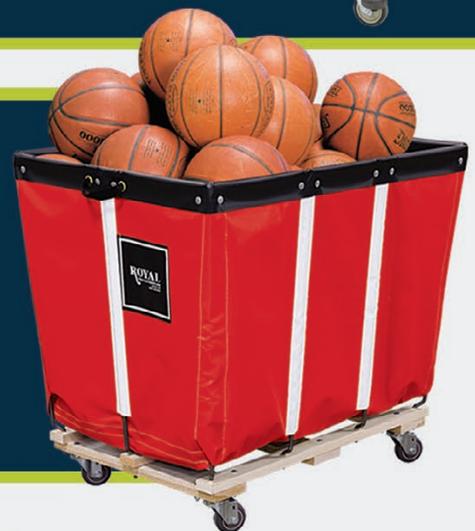
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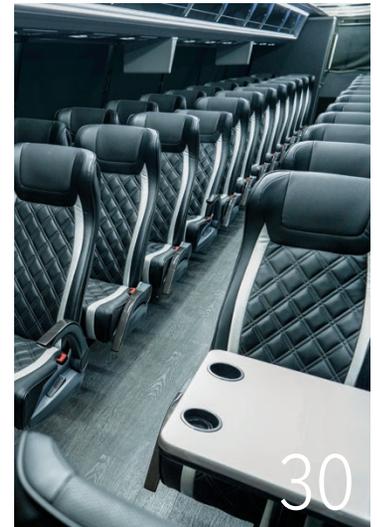


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Zakiya Luna, Associate Professor of Sociology and Dean's Distinguished Professorial Scholar at Washington University in St. Louis, is an exemplar within the field of sociology in terms of both research and praxis. In addition to her admirable accomplishments—co-editing the seminal text *Black Feminist Sociology: Perspectives and Praxis*, as well as writing the incredibly timely *Reproductive Rights as Human Rights: Women of Color and the Fight for Reproductive Justice*—those around her emphasize her focus on putting theory into practice while supporting and cultivating the strengths of everyone she works with.

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Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania, has always had a dynamic artistic community. Until recently, however, all their performance spaces were spread out across the 260-acre campus.

EDITOR'S LETTER



Happy kick off to the holiday season!

While it might be October, this is the beginning of the big three-months of holiday celebrations, all beginning with Halloween. Additionally, this great time of year starts the countdown to my favorite of all holidays: Christmas. The fall also brings football with all its joys and gatherings, and that leads to the cascade of Halloween, many families getting together for Thanksgiving, and the grand finale of the year, with the winter holidays, Christmas, and the New Year. But if I am going to be frank, I am already beginning to get the decorations ready for Christmas (too soon?).

This past weekend, we got together with my 80-year-old dad and (slightly younger) mom, going apple and muscadine picking. It was great day spending time with family and getting to enjoy the bounty that nature gives us. The next day, we made muscadine juice, and it was a great to celebrate what we had gathered up the day before. This is one reason I think fall is so wonderful—we seem to slow down just a little and enjoy the season with the precious moments it gives.

Many of your campuses enjoy the leaves and the colors that will come as nature once again performs her annual pageant of the trees. This display is as amazing to me now as it was when I was a kid, when we raked the leaves and had to jump in all the piles at least once before bagging them up. Maybe it is those memories that I remember when I take time to enjoy all the wonders of fall today.

If you are in the South as we are, now is a great time to enjoy the outdoors without the heat and to spend nights by the firepit, drinking warm cider and toddies and just enjoying each other. I hope each of you takes time to enjoy the season, realizing how wonderful this time of year is and appreciating the beauty that can be found all around. May you relish the joys of the season and family while celebrating the gifts that nature has blessed us with.

Until next month, enjoy a cup of warm cider and take time to feel the touch of fall in the air and the blessings that we have.

Talk again soon—

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Setting a New Standard in Sociology at Washington University in St. Louis

by Cynthia Mwenja, PhD

Zakiya Luna, Associate Professor of Sociology and Dean's Distinguished Professorial Scholar at Washington University in St. Louis, is an exemplar within the field of sociology in terms of both research and praxis. In addition to her admirable accomplishments—co-editing the seminal text *Black Feminist Sociology: Perspectives and Praxis*, as well as writing the incredibly timely *Reproductive Rights as Human Rights: Women of Color and the Fight for Reproductive Justice*—those around her emphasize her focus on putting theory into practice while supporting and cultivating the strengths of everyone she works with.

Mentoring

Luna, now entering her second year as a faculty member at Washington University in St. Louis, is deeply appreciated by her students and research assistants for the robust mentoring she offers. One such student is Natalia Gonzalez, doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Irvine, who worked as a research assistant for Luna on multiple projects during her undergraduate years at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Gonzalez says that Luna didn't just tell her what to do—instead, Luna taught Gonzalez how to conduct research. This mentoring, Gonzalez says, prepared her for graduate school by showing her what research in the field of sociology entails. Luna helped in myriad other ways, as well, teaching Gonzalez how to apply to graduate school, how to secure funding, what fellowships to pursue, and what conferences to apply for. Gonzalez says that this mentorship has been key and has “had a profound effect” on her life.

The type of mentorship Luna offers can play a pivotal role in minoritized students making it to graduate school, Gonzalez points out. Samantha Cheney, now a master's student in

UCLA's School of Public Health, agrees, saying that she is in her current program due in large part to her work with Luna. Cheney says Luna helped members of her research team establish a background in methodologies and research in general so that they understood the process of research as a whole. Luna gave the team articles to deepen their understanding, and the team met frequently to discuss what their findings might mean. Cheney now plans to work within intervention programs which focus on reproductive justice.

Luna values the opinions of her students, making a habit of asking for their input on her research and her classes. Cheney, who worked with Luna both as a student and as a research assistant during her undergraduate years, says that Luna “works to cultivate students' interests,” supporting them by giving them opportunities to explore their own passions within her courses. For one example, students in Luna's social movements class are required to attend local social movement meetings of any kind, then use that information to guide them as they develop their own social movements in a final project. When working with Luna as a research assistant, Cheney says, Luna helped

her to learn and grow personally, building on and expanding her current interests.

Writings

Black Feminist Sociology: Perspectives and Praxis, co-edited by Luna and Whitney Pirtle and published in 2021, is the first volume of its kind, covering “foundations and futures” of Black Feminism within the field of sociology. Luna reports that it has already been adopted as a course text in several colleges and universities, including Morehouse, Stony Brook, and the University of Southern California. Maria Johnson, PhD, Founder and Chair of the Black Women and Girls Fund—and contributor to the volume—points out the “groundbreaking” role of this book within the field of sociology. Even though the field considers many aspects of culture, she says, much of the work continues to be “siloes” rather than intersectional. The book, she says, “cuts across generations of Black feminist thought,” spanning from early thinkers to new voices.

Additionally, Luna employed a Black feminist approach to writing. Johnson says that Luna was intentional about the full process, including how the communication emails and



PHOTO BY SID HASTINGS/WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

call guidelines were worded to be collaborative and “kind”—a word often not associated with the academic publishing process. Jasmine Kelekay, PhD, post-doctoral scholar in the Department of African American and African American Diaspora Studies at Berkeley, who had previously worked with Luna in her Mobilizing Millions research, already knew that Luna ensures that her research teams “get engaged with interesting questions.” Kelekay notes that Luna also strives to ensure that her research team members are compensated for their work. Such support is doubly important for people of color within the academy, who often face higher barriers to university acceptance and attendance than their white peers. Kelekay later became Luna’s research assistant for Luna to work on *Black Feminist Sociology*. Kelekay says that it was a “powerful” experience to be part of the team of the two editors and two graduate students; she calls the process “transparent, collaborative, and respectful” for all participants. Additionally, the experience was “huge” for her professional development, since she saw the inner workings, from structuring and disseminating the call to choosing and arranging the submissions.

Reproductive Rights as Human Rights: Women of Color and the Fight for Reproductive

Justice—published in 2020 and now on Oprah’s list of books to read post-Roe—examines the range of issues involved in the reproductive justice movement. So often, Luna says, the conversation around reproduction focuses narrowly on abortion, but people encounter an entire range of reproductive issues. She points out that women of color—Black, Chicana, Indigenous—have been engaging in activism around reproductive issues since the 1960s, though the term “reproductive justice” was coined in 1994 by Black women attending a conference who pointed out that “choice” doesn’t get at the range of reproductive concerns that people regularly face. Their goals were articulated succinctly by SisterSong—a reproductive justice collective run by women of color—in 1997: “the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.” While women of color began this work, Luna says, the issues are relevant to everyone of all genders and races; people have to think about so many issues at the same time: health, healthcare and access, birthing care, fertility treatments, economic security, employment, and the list goes on.

These ideas are beginning to resonate more broadly. Luna says that national legislators are

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beginning to use the phrase “reproductive justice,” and a group of reproductive justice advocates met with President Biden in May of this year to discuss these concepts. SisterSong’s succinct statement gets at a broad swathe of concerns, such as human rights and allowing people to “flourish in a world they wanted to create,” Luna says. This work continues; SisterSong was able to return for an in-person conference last month, and attendees were able to interact with people “holding the wisdom of decades” as well as people who are working in multiple movements to strengthen connections with other pressing issues, such as environmental ones.

In working with these ideas in her classes, Luna helps students make the connections to biologic, economic, political, and social dimensions of these issues. While these aspects may seem abstract at first, they have concrete impacts on people’s lives. Additionally, Luna’s students explore questions of “Why are things the way they are?” and “How can we change on the ground?” In her work with reproductive

justice and in studying social movements, Luna says that it is important for people to see how these ideas apply outside of the university setting. As she points out, “policy doesn’t happen in a vacuum”; people need to understand all of the points of view and how the issues are being discussed.

Embodying Black Feminism

Johnson says that “what’s really fantastic and special about [Luna] is that she combines deeply theoretical research” with the application of those ideas in working with social movements and issues of race and gender. Johnson says that Luna is mindful of using her research in practice; she both publishes in high-profile journals and leads in the public sphere, serving on boards and speaking publicly about reproductive justice. In these ways, Johnson says, Luna demonstrates how women of color build coalitions while simultaneously developing recognition of women of color as thinkers. Luna balances between thinking about theory, praxis, and advocacy;

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Johnson says that building connections and sharing information in multiple ways are a “core part of being a Black feminist.”

Kelekay appreciates the way that Luna and Pirtle practiced Black feminism in their process of developing and publishing the book. She felt “genuinely nurtured,” which can be an

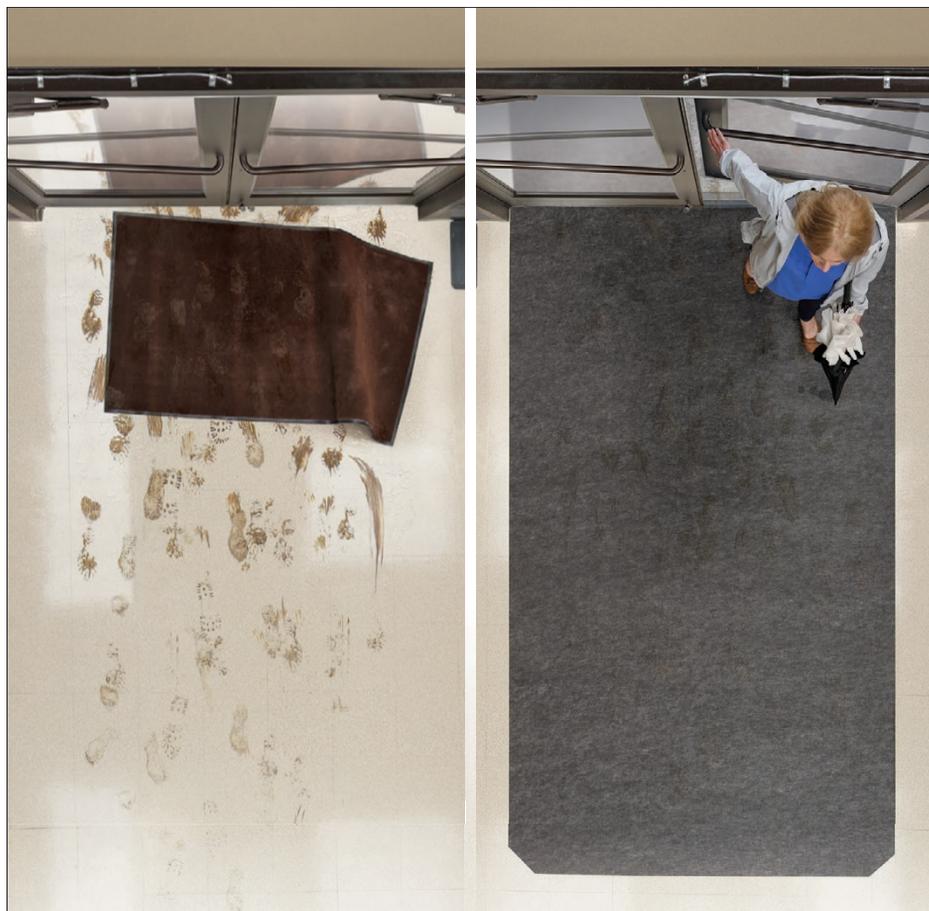
uncommon experience for women of color within the academy. Through Luna’s example, Kelekay says, she has learned how to practice her convictions, how to put them into action in her teaching and of research. This example, she says, is “positive and empowering.” Kelekay says that the mentoring relationship she has

with Luna hasn’t dissipated after the book project ended. She states that “this praxis is important—it isn’t simply because Luna is generous or nice (though she is)—this *is* the work. It’s not just the subject of the work, but how the work gets done.” These approaches include being transparent, accountable, and figuring out together how to respond when there are roadblocks. Additionally, Kelekay says, this approach includes “radical inclusion”; Luna doesn’t establish negative hierarchical power relations. Working with Luna has inspired Kelekay to be guided by the same convictions.

Johnson says that women of color are still underrepresented within the field of sociology, even in feminist journals. Often, she says, sociology as a field is interested in studying people of color but seems to be less interested in hearing from scholars of color. Through her work, Luna has helped to create space for herself and others in the field, both on conference panels and in publications.

Learning from Luna’s Example

Luna embodies and exemplifies practices that can benefit scholars in all disciplines and universities of all kinds. Inspired by her example, Gonzalez would encourage university administrators to recognize the importance of mentorship in the service work that faculty members take on. Such mentoring is often not formally recognized in tenure and promotion decisions, but it can expand the people and perspectives included in every field of study. Cheney recommends providing more opportunities for professors to meet with and really listen to their students. Kelekay points out how well Luna’s personal mentoring style, innovative scholarship, and community-engaged praxis fit very well in a private liberal arts setting; she is excited to see what Luna will be able to do with the opportunities this setting will afford. Administrators of higher education may imagine that those they hire have admirable qualities as individuals—and Luna certainly has those in spades—but when those individual traits are aligned with community-building ideals, such as those found within Black feminism, and supported by the academy, true social transformation can result.



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

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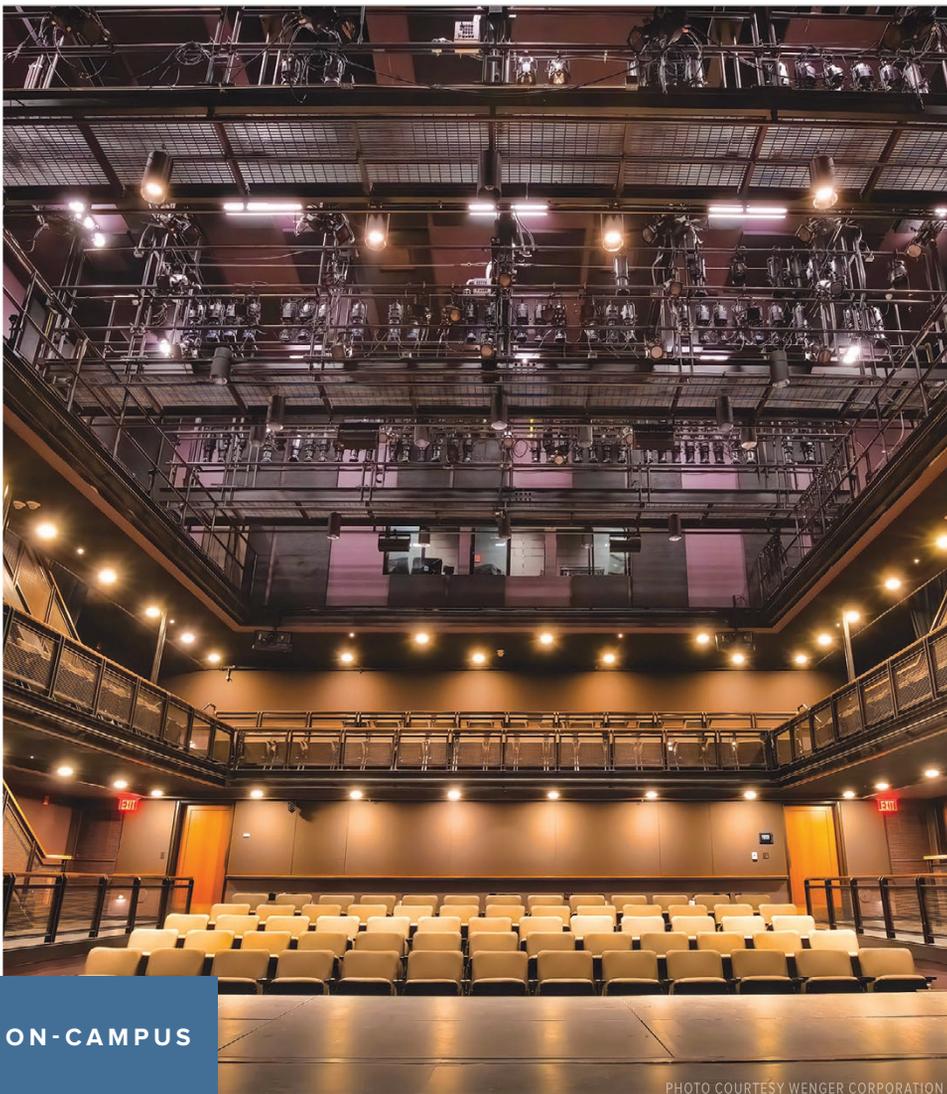
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ON-CAMPUS

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VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY'S NEW JOHN AND JOAN MULLEN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS: **Uniting an Artistic Community Under One Roof**

BY WHITNEY B. WINKELS

Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania, has always had a dynamic artistic community. Until recently, however, all their performance spaces were spread out across the 260-acre campus. “For many years, even before I became president, I have been vocal about my desire to create a permanent home for the arts at Villanova,” says the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, Villanova University President, who served as chair of the University’s Department of Theatre from 1992 to 2006. “The Center for the Performing Arts will be that place. It will be a place of discovery, where knowledge is disseminated and applied, and it will be a destination that reflects the quality of our students, faculty and staff, the caliber of our productions, and the talent of our performers and artists.”

After years of fundraising, Villanova University and Rev. Donohue were able to bring this vision to life, creating a cultural hub to unite the artistic community. In the end, the new John and Joan Mullen Center for the Performing Arts will meet the needs for five unique spaces for performance, rehearsal, education, and dance—finally bringing them all together under one roof.

The new John and Joan Mullen Center for the Performing Arts opened its doors in 2020 in a prominent location on Lancaster Avenue. Not only does the building serve as an important entrance to campus on a busy intersection, but it also houses multiple performance spaces with very specific needs:

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Making these spaces a reality was a large task, requiring collaboration, innovation, and customized solutions. Plus, each performance space came with unique challenges and timelines as well as different needs and talent.

Joint-partners Robert A. M. Stern Architects (RAMSA) and Voith and Mactavish Architects were brought on to design the center. L.F. Driscoll served as construction manager; Theatre Projects Consultants (TPC) served as theatrical consultants. Wenger Corporation also played a key role in the collective vision,

providing innovative solutions everywhere—from the acoustical shell, manual control systems, and rigging—to custom seated risers, audience seating, and rehearsal equipment.

“It takes a lot of coordination to bring performing arts spaces to life,” says Ryan Cole, Project Manager at Wenger Corporation. “The ideas and products are just the first step. We have to circle back with our partners and engineering teams constantly. We even think about things like how the cabling and wiring runs up the walls or where to put the outlets and how power was going to be run for the step lights, everything along those lines.”

Fortunately, the Wenger team could streamline the process for the University, providing answers in real-time to address every aspect of the project, all the way from the performance and rehearsal spaces to the classroom settings. Additionally—while coordinating the production, construction and installation schedules—Wenger was able to offer guidance and instruction using their new products at the same time.

“The specifications that Theatre Projects Consultants put together were to a high standard, which we can meet. But it also produces a higher quality product and theatre space for the end users to work in,” Cole said. “I think that’s one of the challenges that we like to meet as a company, being able to hit those quality levels that TPC requires which, in the end, produces a great, fully functional theatre and a highly functional theatre for those end users.”

When the facility opened, Rev. Donohue offered remarks: “Today, a dream is becoming a reality. This is an exciting new chapter for Villanova. I look forward to what the future holds for our arts community and am humbled by the countless people who made today possible.”

“We are grateful for the alumni, parents and friends whose generosity has helped us reach this exciting milestone,” says Michael J. O’Neill, Senior Vice President for University Advancement. “The Performing Arts Center is a highly anticipated facility and an impressive example of how

philanthropic investment is transforming our campus today and for the future.”

“The Center for the Performing Arts is the last piece of Villanova’s ambitious plan for redevelopment on the south side of Lancaster Avenue,” said RAMSA Partner Kevin M. Smith. “We were proud to be a part of this far-sighted reimagining of the University’s physical campus and even prouder to support Father Donohue’s vision for raising the profile of the arts in Villanova’s academic and campus life.”



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Whitney B. Winkels is the Senior Marketing Communications Manager for Wenger Corporation. She joined Wenger Corporation in 2016 as the Performing Arts Marketing Manager and helped lead marketing and communications efforts for the Wenger Corporation’s Wenger and J.R. Clancy brands. As the Senior Marketing Communications Manager, she oversees Wenger’s Music Education, Performing Arts and Athletics marketing initiatives.

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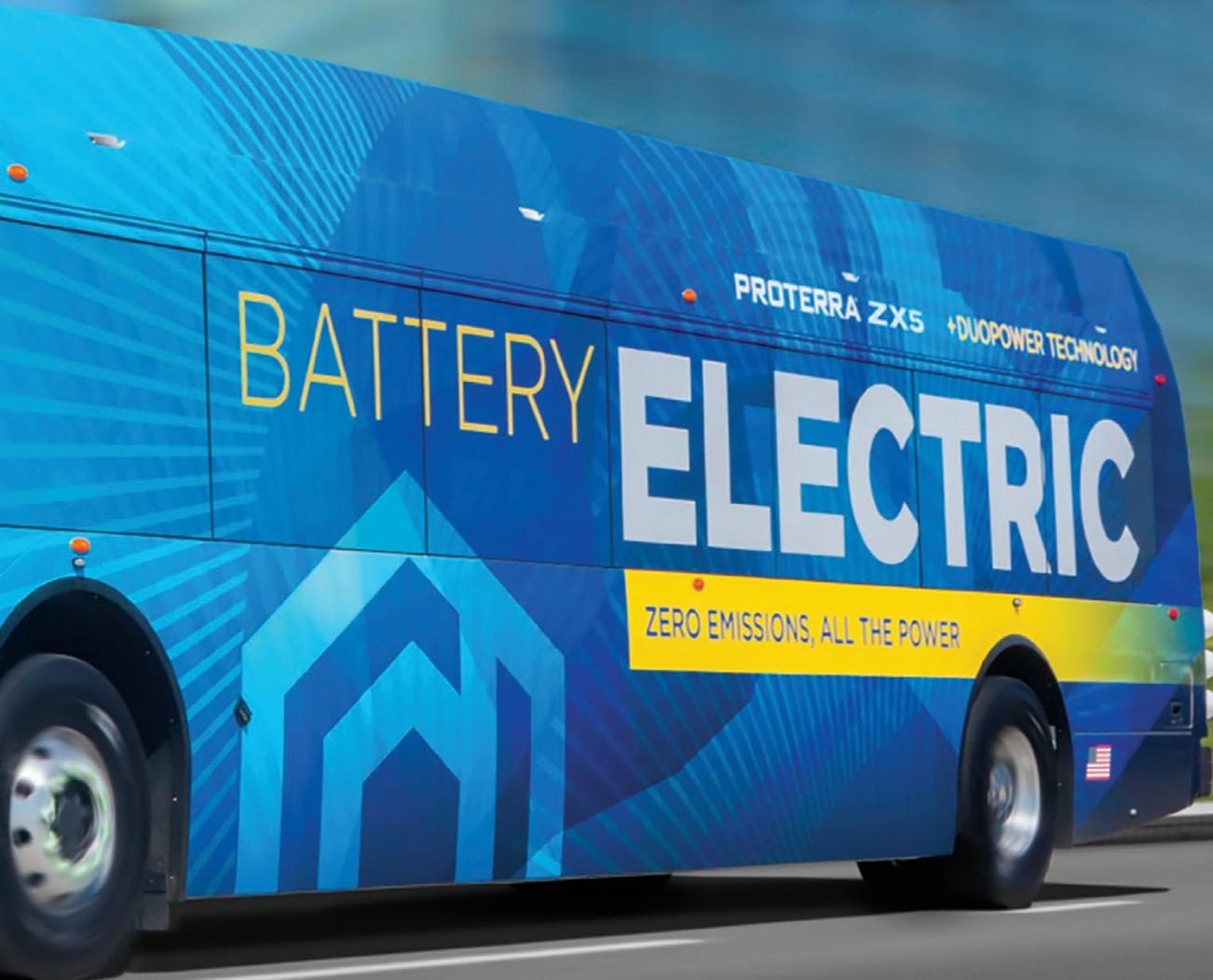
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Combining History with Innovation

THE ADMINISTRATIVE SPACES OF DAVIDSON COLLEGE

BY DAVID VINSON, PHD

Located north of Charlotte, Davidson College is a private liberal arts college that enrolls approximately 2,000 undergraduates, offering a student-faculty ratio of 9:1. In 2018, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* rated Davidson as the #1 college for value across all colleges and universities in America. Moreover, the 2021 annual ranking by *U.S. News and World Report* placed Davidson in elite company as America's second "Best Undergraduate Teaching" institution. Davidson has also been nationally recognized for the accessibility of its faculty to students, the intuitive and convenient manner by which students can navigate campus grounds, and the quality of life it offers.

Such is the appeal of Davidson and its campus that 95% of its students live on campus—and despite its small enrollment size, the institution has attracted students from all fifty states, as well as from forty-six countries. The diversity of the student body at Davidson allows students to engage and experience new perspectives and traditions, all in an intimate setting that includes beautiful greenery, brick walkways, towering trees, and Lake Campus, a recreational space located on the largest manufactured lake in North Carolina. The campus cross-country trails provide opportunities for campus residents to engage in fitness activities and to seek peace of mind on the hiking and jogging routes.

The inclusivity of Davidson extends to its community of faculty. For instance, the Faculty of Color Caucus (FoCC) functions as an advocacy group and community network for members who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color). The FoCC's mission is to collaborate with social justice-oriented organizations and interest groups across campus, and they work diligently to facilitate a campus culture that embraces social justice, inclusivity, and equitability. Similarly, Davidson's community has created an affinity group for administrative staff called Staff of Color, which includes those who identify as "people of color." Their goals are not unlike the FoCC's but with particular attention assigned to professional development, inclusive hiring efforts, and seeking work-life balance, as well as outreach and collective advocacy.

Davidson's campus reflects its commitment to inclusivity in its approach to exterior and interior design, most notably in architectural spaces that signal the institution's historical origins alongside emergent, state-of-the-art learning and working spaces. Such spaces gratify a variety of cultural and professional needs, allowing for a level of comfort and a sense of belonging that brings the entire campus community together.

Honoring Tradition: Davidson's Long-Standing Administrative Spaces

Part of what makes Davidson College special is the manner by which its history is reflected in the architecture of the campus. Davidson was established in 1837 by the Concord Presbytery, and the institution is named after Revolutionary War general William Lee Davidson, who was killed at the nearby Battle of Cowan's Ford. The 469 acres of land that became home to Davidson were purchased from Davidson's son, William Lee Davidson II, and much of the architecture constructed

on campus grounds still stand in some form today. Take, for instance, Grey House, home to Admissions offices and the starting point for campus tours and on-campus information sessions. Grey House was built in the 1850s, remodeled as Admissions office space in 1991, then expanded in 1999. The exterior echoes 19th-century colonial architecture accomplished with simple, clean design elements, that of a wood frame which has aesthetic roots in Palladian classicism. The two-story structure has the appearance of a charming home, a welcoming space complimented by a central door and symmetrical facades and windows. Harding House, now the home of Davidson's Financial Aid office, was built in 1890 and remodeled in 1994 for administrative space. This building's exterior aesthetics are similar to that of Grey House, and the structure is framed by a pair of lush trees that shade the entryway.

The president's house, now located near the Fine Arts Building, was initially a simple two-story structure when it was built in 1836, measuring a modest 22x32', with two rooms

upstairs and two downstairs. Renovations began in 1860 and included the unveiling of the original front door that had for some time been hidden. The windows to the house are asymmetrical in appearance and remain this way today. Amidst several successive renovations—including the addition of a dining room, pantry, an upstairs room overlooking the dining room, and a downstairs guest room—the main objective has always been to uphold the home's history and to maintain the original 1830s farmhouse style, thereby reflecting the growth of Davidson while still preserving the past. For a period in the late 1950s, there were suggestions to tear down the President's House. The serving president, D. Grier Martin, refused, stating that "the house had been the administrative cradle of the College and was intimately associated with the administrations of men who had made Davidson great." A neo-classical portico was added at that time, as were columns at the front of the house; the roof was also remodeled, in addition to a one-story south wing that expanded the living and reception

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area. The house currently stands as a grand structure, a symbol of Davidson's history and culture to welcome visitors, students, faculty, and staff alike.

Jackson Court is another fine example of Davidson's commitment to preserving its architectural history while adapting to the needs of a growing institution. Comprised of nine small houses in a semi-circle on the southeast side of campus, Jackson Court is home to a variety of administrative offices and services for the college. The buildings were constructed in 1928, and today they form a picturesque scene worthy of a postcard. Not all buildings are exactly alike; some have white-columned entrances, while others feature screened patios. All of the houses in this campus area have ample windows which attract natural light and allow administrators to admire the scenery outside—gorgeous trees, lush grass, bright pink flowers, along with stone benches providing outdoor space for socializing or eating. The offices in the court include Business Services, the Education Office, Grants & Contracts, Planning

and Institutional Research, the Chidsey Leadership Development Office, Freedom Schools, Purchasing, Human Resources, and Theological Exploration of Vocation. Indeed, Jackson Court functions as a gorgeous hub for Davidson's administrative staff.

Administrative Spaces and Innovation

As the wants and needs of any campus-based community continue to evolve, such is the need to adapt. In the case of Davidson's technology-specific services, Technology and Innovation (T and I) functions as the information technology department, providing support with technology facilities and technology infrastructure on campus. T and I offers computing, innovation, and free printing facilities where users can work with 3D printers, laser cutters, a podcast studio, two virtual reality labs, and a media lab. T and I partners with students, faculty, and staff to use and apply existing and emerging technologies that support and transform teaching, learning, research, and administrative processes. The

interiors of the facilities are designed with open spaces that are amenable to collaborative work; they are also arranged for individual work, where users can operate privately and in comfort.

As an extension of its commitment to providing innovative spaces, Davidson College also purchased industrial space in downtown Davidson. The space was originally built as a cotton mill in 1920; today, it is a gorgeous 23,000 square foot, cutting-edge, LEED Gold-certified facility where campus and community integrate to spark vibrant technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The facility is called The Hurt Hub@Davidson; the facility originated from the idea of uniting Davidson students, faculty, staff, and alumni with local companies. These companies collaborate with faculty and students on projects and internships. Classes are also available to all members of Davidson College; offered is a rotating selection of courses and workshops focused on critical topics for any entrepreneur whose aim is to bring an idea to life.

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Core Values and Cultural Identity

Davidson's campus embodies its belief that campus history informs its values and cultural identity. The architectural spaces of Davidson honor the past while also nurturing the college's physical, technological, environmental, and human resources with new and innovative workspaces. Administrative spaces that range from the Grey House to the remarkable off-campus collaborative environment of The Hurt Hub@Davidson all signal the institution's commitment to providing each member of Davidson with the support to thrive both on campus and beyond.



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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Robots Clean Buildings

A SOLUTION TO STAFF SHORTAGES

BY ROBIN PAUL

While consumers have embraced robotic floor cleaning products for their homes, these devices are rarely seen operating in professional settings. Even as autonomous cleaning products have become more readily available, they have not yet become the norm in the cleaning industry. Since most cleaning tasks are performed manually, people are hard to replace. And, due to the pandemic, the need for heightened cleaning and regular disinfecting has increased costs and stretched staff time and resources.

Today's challenging labor environment could be the catalyst for autonomous products becoming more commonplace; the growing shortage of skilled staff makes reducing time-consuming activities more important. Cleaning robots are therefore becoming a viable option to supplement cleaning and maintenance personnel, especially since some models now work so autonomously that they provide great relief for certain applications. Easy handling, high safety standards and the large footprint of flooring to be cleaned encourage their use, making these products ideal for colleges and universities.

Independent Operation

When considering the autonomous operation of machines, the objective is to minimize the need for human intervention as much as possible. In an ideal scenario, a robotic scrubber can clean extensively right up to the floor edge without the need for any additional manual work. If the machines contain high-performance software and sensors, they can turn in tight spaces and avoid unexpected obstacles, such as waste baskets or people entering the cleaning path. The robots become reliable, productive members of the cleaning team, typically providing a return on investment in less than two years.

Safety

Complete autonomy would be no help if cleaning robots do not meet the most exacting safety standards, especially in areas frequented by the public. Constant 360° monitoring of the surroundings is now possible with the aid of high optic cameras and Lidar sensors. Both moving obstacles and stationary objects are reliably detected, allowing the robot to recalculate the cleaning route. Depending on the model and manufacturer, safety features are certified in accordance with the provisions of CSA North America. An external authority must always confirm that the robot enables safe operation in accordance with the relevant standards.

Ease of Use

Maintenance personnel at many institutions still feel some inhibitions when operating robotic cleaners even though these devices are now quite simple to control. When scrubber robots were first launched on the market, only service engineers with technical equipment and special programming knowledge were able to create a route plan with the complicated

technology. Some companies still require their customers to use white glove support both to get started and to maintain the system over time. Fortunately, some technology providers have made tremendous advancements using improved sensors and higher data quality to ensure that every user can now create, correct, or combine routes without any technical support.

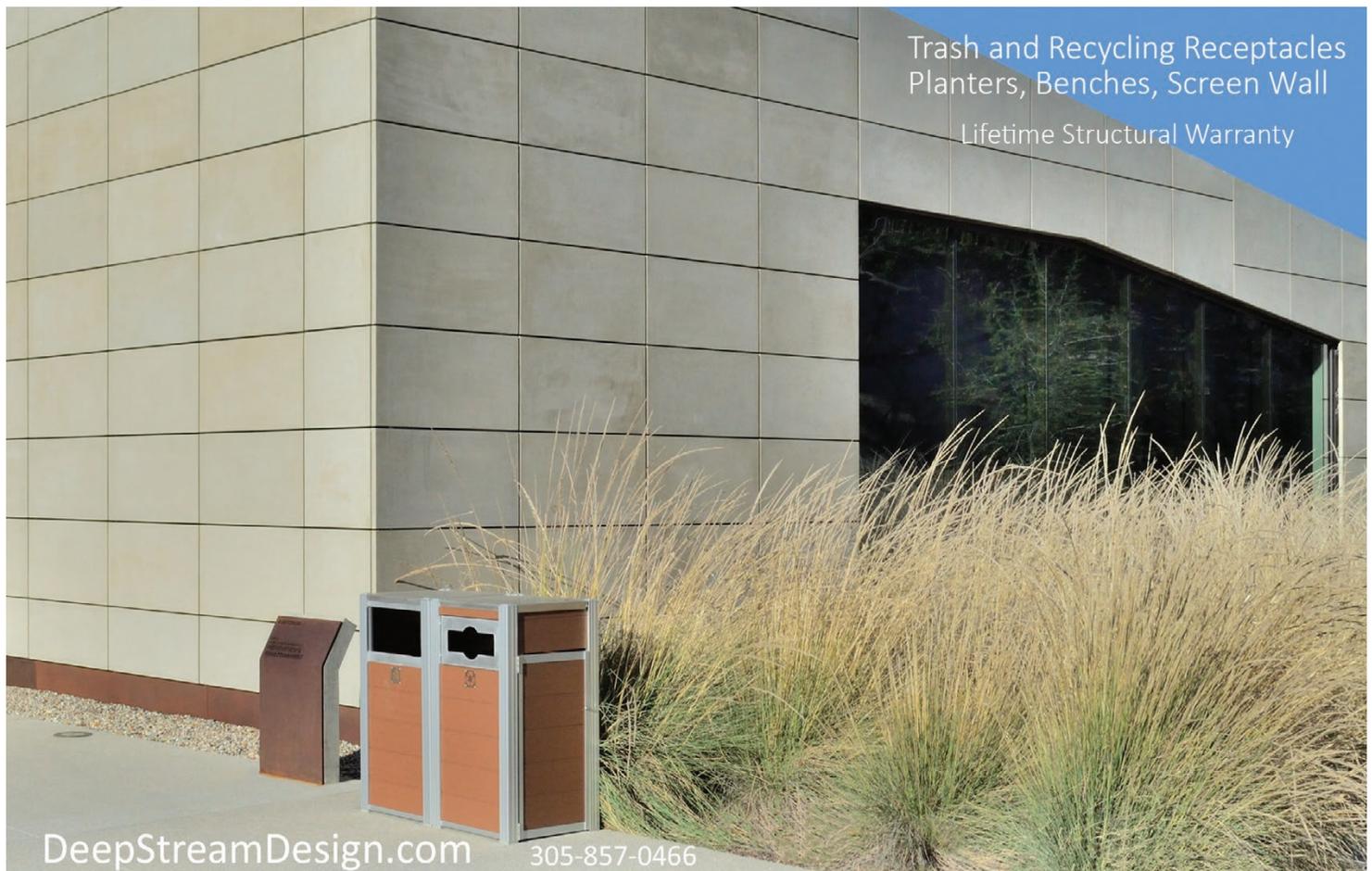
Most models offer step-by-step instructions to show what needs to be done, not only for the robot but for the operator as well. Multiple cleaning routes can be saved simultaneously, eliminating everyday mundane set-up. If a route is to be programmed, the user chooses a starting point which is marked with a code that can be read by the robot. The user then teaches the robot the scheduled cleaning route using “Teach and Repeat” mode. Alternately, the user can choose “Area Fill” selection and move the robot around the perimeter of a defined area. The robot then cleans everything within the perimeter. A key benefit of all of these devices is that staff can easily see the status of the cleaning robot in real time using any smartphone or tablet.

Teamwork

Although cleaning robots could be regarded as rivals to janitorial staff, working in tandem proves the opposite. Everyday floor cleaning is often a monotonous, strenuous activity that costly for employers. Floor scrubber robots can provide valuable assistance in this area, since they cope with medium and large areas as well as maneuvering safely in narrow surroundings.

With the introduction of autonomous cleaning floor scrubbers and vacuums, cleaners can perform other, more complex tasks for which they had too little time in the past. The increased demands on cleanliness and hygiene in public spaces needs the expertise of skilled personnel. For example, disinfecting stair rails, door handles, desks, elevator buttons, bathrooms, and kitchen surfaces always needs a human touch. With the introduction of professional autonomous floor scrubbers, workers can put away the mop in hallways, lobbies, labs, and classrooms, and increase productivity by saving time.

Vacuum cleaner robots also significantly reduce the effort required in cleaning carpeted



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When considering the autonomous operation of machines, the objective is to minimize the need for human intervention as much as possible. In an ideal scenario, a robotic scrubber can clean extensively right up to the floor edge without the need for any additional manual work.

areas—a task that can be both very time-consuming and expensive. If the machines feature powerful batteries and high area output and cleaning performance, they will improve productivity and cleaning quality while simultaneously reducing the workload of cleaners. Plus, a robotic floor cleaner will not “miss” areas; cleaning tasks will be completed with the same quality and efficiency every time, without supervision.

Robot Variety and Reporting Functions

One critical component, the software that drives robotic floor cleaners, needs to be inspected, updated, and maintained in order to continue efficient and safe operation. When considering autonomous cleaning products, users also need to consider the software provider. There are significant differences in how software providers enhance robotic ease of use, deliver new features based on technological advancements, and enforce safety and security protocols. Operation managers are often asked to provide “proof of clean” for internal audits and budget discussions.

Reporting is an importation function when selecting an autonomous solution. In today’s data driven world, having this information at one’s fingertips provides an advantage for users to make informed decisions. The provider should have the ability to deliver the data in a digestible and customizable format within an online portal. To take advantage of these features, maintenance personnel can choose reliable, known software with a history of excellent performance and a proactive approach to constantly evaluating and updating the software. On-site set up and ample training should always be considered, as well.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Robin Paul, is the Director of Marketing Communications Kärcher North America. Since 2005, Robin has worked for Kärcher, a leading global provider of cleaning technology with over 625 active patents. The North American subsidiary of the family-owned enterprise employs over 1,100 people in facilities in Aurora, Colorado, Blackwood, New Jersey and Fayetteville, Arkansas.

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Push-to-Talk COMMUNICATION

BY TY ESTES

Push-to-Talk Over Cellular (PoC) provides group and individual communication services over both Wi-Fi, 4G and Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology, creating a nationwide radio network. Radio users are untethered by the range of repeaters and base stations required for traditional radio networks.

PoC is also referred to as Radio over IP (RoIP). Similar to Voice over IP (VoIP), RoIP devices are portable two-way radios that access cloud-based PoC services via the internet for unlimited voice and video calling. A data plan SIM card—like those used in cell phones—is installed in the PoC device to enable access to the internet using the 4G/LTE cellular infrastructure of mobile network operators like AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon. PoC radios are also known as Internet of Things (IoT) devices that access the internet for data communications via Wi-Fi networks like any other mobile device.

This alphabet soup of terminology may be confusing, but simply put, PoC devices access

the internet through 4G/LTE cellular and Wi-Fi networks for wide-area radio communications. The result is access to existing and reliable networks that require no maintenance or operational infrastructure expenses. An app on the PoC device provides simple and convenient access to PoC services.

The Benefits of PoC

PoC provides the same group calling capabilities as traditional two-way radio systems, enabling instant group calls to multiple users with the press of a button on a handheld or mobile PoC radio or from a dispatching application. Call groups can be set up based on emergency call groups, employee job

functions (educator, maintenance, administration, security); people can belong to multiple groups if they are a manager or team lead.

PoC requires no FCC frequency licenses or traditional radio infrastructure. There is no need to purchase, operate, and maintain equipment such as repeaters and multiple antenna systems. PoC also eliminates the need for expensive FCC radio frequency licenses, which may not even be available in some high-density urban areas. PoC systems can be deployed very quickly over existing cellular and Wi-Fi networks, and they can work out-of-the-box with SIM cards pre-installed.

PoC systems include web-based dispatching applications that can be run on a web browser. Dispatch applications provide a comprehensive fleet dispatching and group calling visual interface for instant nationwide voice and video calling and GPS location tracking. Group calls can be made to pre-programmed groups, or dynamic call groups can be easily created by

selecting users from a list or grouping within an area on the dispatch map. Dispatch applications can track multiple user locations and travel routes with job site time stamps to manage and dispatch remote workers.

Subscription Based PoC Services

PoC radio services can be purchased on a subscription basis with low-cost annual plans that include rental PoC devices, or the PoC devices can be purchased and owned by subscribers. The subscription costs typically include the SIM card which has a monthly service fee from the mobile cellular operator to access the LTE network through the SIM data plan. The benefits of subscription based PoC services include the following:

- PoC subscription plans are very inexpensive and cost-effective
- This plan provides a monthly operating expenses cost model with minimal up-front costs and low monthly or annual payments

- This innovation offers the easiest and fastest way to get reliable wide-area radio communications
- Users make no investment in depreciating radio network infrastructure
- Users have no equipment to house, power, and maintain
- The system is easily scalable, with unlimited subscribers so can easily grow with the needs of the organization
- Users have flexible deployment options with Wi-Fi and LTE networks

Subscription Based PoC Application Example

When PoC devices on subscription plans access a cloud based PoC system using Wi-Fi and cellular 4G/LTE networks, the PoC devices on the Wi-Fi network are utilizing the existing wireless network infrastructure of a campus to access the cloud based PoC controller. These devices include PoC radios,

PoC mobile computers, and PoC bodycams. It is important to note that a Wi-Fi coverage survey should be conducted to ensure there is sufficient coverage for the devices to access the cloud based PoC controller anywhere on campus. Wi-Fi connectivity is optional and 4G/LTE coverage can be used if there is no high-quality Wi-Fi network available.

The PoC devices on the nationwide 4G/LTE network use SIM cards to access the mobile operator's cellular network with an Access Point Name (APN) that routes the data traffic to the internet gateway. The PoC devices on the 4G/LTE network include mobile PoC radios installed in vehicles, in addition to the same devices found on the Wi-Fi network. The PoC controller accesses the internet through the customer's network router. PoC subscriptions can also include a web-browser based dispatch application that accesses all the PoC devices on the system via the internet.

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Customer Owned PoC Systems

PoC radio systems can also be owned by the customer as a Capital Expenditure purchase. This designation allows the customer to make a single purchase payment for the PoC system without any recurring subscription costs. Customer-owned systems do require subscriptions for the SIM cards from the mobile cellular operator to access the LTE network through the SIM data plan.

PoC systems are typically available with entry-level or advanced PoC controllers. Entry-level systems provide very cost-effective PoC communications. They support Wi-Fi and 4G/LTE network access, group voice calling, text messaging, and a limited number of PoC devices (around two hundred users). Advanced PoC controllers add capabilities and functions such as dispatch applications, supporting video calls from PoC bodycams and other video capable PoC devices, in addition to supporting an unlimited number

of users. The benefits of customer-owned PoC Systems include the following:

- Customer owned PoC systems can have a lower total cost of ownership over several years compared to a PoC subscription plan
- Capital expenditure cost model with all costs up front in a single purchase and no monthly service payments
- Fast deployment of reliable wide-area radio communications
- Simple equipment installation of a PoC controller
- Scalable growth and flexible deployment options with Wi-Fi and LTE networks

Customer Owned PoC System Application Example

While similar to the subscription application example, this version shows the PoC controller residing on the customer premises

rather than in the cloud. This application has an advanced PoC controller that supports a dispatch application and video calls.

The PoC devices on the Wi-Fi network are utilizing the wireless network infrastructure of the campus to access the PoC controller. A Wi-Fi coverage survey is recommended to ensure there is sufficient coverage for the devices to access the PoC controller anywhere on campus. Wi-Fi connectivity at the facility is optional and 4G/LTE coverage can be used if there is no Wi-Fi network available.

The PoC devices on the nationwide 4G/LTE network use SIM cards to access the mobile operator's cellular network with an Access Point Name (APN) that routes the data traffic to the mobile operator's internet gateway. The PoC controller accesses the internet through the customer's network router.

Customer-owned PoC systems with a dispatch application typically require an

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additional dispatch controller. The dispatch web-browser-based application accesses the dispatch controller via the internet or a direct LAN connection.

PoC Devices

PoC devices include handheld radios, PoC mobile radios, PoC handheld smart devices, mobile computers, and PoC bodycams. These compact, rugged, and easy-to-operate handheld devices enable group voice and video communications over Wi-Fi and nationwide cellular 4G/LTE networks.

Key features of PoC devices:

- Digital noise suppression and high-volume speakers for excellent voice quality in loud environments
- Built-in Wi-Fi that automatically switches over to the LTE network when out of Wi-Fi range
- GPS enables tracking and positioning for the dispatching application

- Ruggedized to water and dust ingress protection ratings
- Supports individual or group texting
- Built-in Bluetooth supports wireless connection with audio accessories for hands-free operation
- Powerful batteries provide reliable operation over multiple shifts
- Multi-unit chargers available for most PoC devices
- Car kits are available for specific handheld PoC radios to provide safe and DOT approved use in vehicles
- PoC handheld smart devices run any Android business app for a true unified communications device
- PoC bodycams with integrated PoC radios reduces equipment costs and simplifies communications
- PoC devices and bodycams with cameras support user-initiated video calls

Summary

Push-to-Talk over Cellular and Wi-Fi technologies are enabling private universities to leverage the capabilities of advanced wide-area communications without the time and expense required to deploy traditional radio infrastructure. PoC technology, along with modern cellular and wireless networks, provides the flexibility, low cost, and wide-area coverage required for today's university operations and student safety.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Ty Estes is the Marketing Director for Hytera US Inc, where he oversees promotion of the company's radio communication products. Ty has over twenty years of experience in marketing wireless communications and network technologies, and he has chaired committees in telecommunications trade associations and authored several technical papers. Ty has a bachelor's degree in English from California State University, Long Beach.

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Campus Service Vehicle

BUYER'S GUIDE

BY STEVE HENSHAW

For those who may be struggling to re-imagine ways to save money on campus service vehicles, this must-read guide will explain how purchasing a bus or fleet can save a university thousands of dollars in annual expenses. This guide also explains what features to consider, the right questions to ask, how to identify red flags, and how to determine what vehicles will be a worthwhile investment.

Campus service vehicles have a lot of different uses, as many administrators may already be aware. The Transportation Services department, in many cases, may have an existing fleet of cars, trucks, and vans that support smaller passenger capacities, and other official business uses. The university may lack the ability to transport larger groups of staff, students, and other campus visitors. The wisest administrators will see the cost savings obtainable when comparing the purchase or lease options of a front-engine motorcoach with the amount spent on bus charters, team travel, and additional marketable activities that will help increase student enrollment. Owning or leasing a bus comes with an abundance of benefits that many campus decision-makers may not have considered.

The most obvious savings for universities that decide to purchase a bus will be in athletic travel. A cost analysis will show the clear numbers. By pulling budget data from previous charter rentals, hotel stays, and airfare for further destinations, then comparing the total to an annual lease-purchase cost or total acquisition price, the savings will be clear. Having a lavatory on the bus can also reduce travel time and increase convenience.

Public transportation is the most used transportation for college students in localities that don't have a well-developed public transportation system. Campuses that don't have such transportation options could be missing out on student enrollment numbers. Public transportation, however, has its disadvantages when it is the only option for students. It can become costly, inconvenient regarding class schedules, may not offer accessibility for students with disabilities, and comes with a risk of harassment and violence that can be avoided. Universities with buses can offer shuttle services to frequent off campus

locations and common visited sites, such as grocery stores and laundry facilities. In colder climates, a bus could assist with off-campus student housing.

Additionally, universities that host an abundance of events but don't have the parking infrastructure to support the additional traffic on campus can ease the hassle of transportation by owning a bus or fleet.

Not only do students and their parents look for a quality education when determining which university to attend, they also consider what campus life is like. They consider whether the university offers activities that support social connections and interactions. Not only are students interested in attending on campus events, but they also enjoy also off-campus group outings that lead to overall increased satisfaction in the educational experience. Sure, fraternities and sororities can be an important part of the college experience, but for other students to increase connection, having the means to provide other forms of social activities for

student engagement, such as a motorcoach or a fleet, will increase the overall well-being and happiness of campus life.

Overall, the visibility of the sports team and college branding is extremely important to the communications department. The exterior of the bus functions as a billboard for all new students, competing schools, and community members. Everyone can appreciate the sleek look of the buses and how they represent the university.

Here are some examples of ways campus service vehicles can be used:

- Athletics travel
- Off-campus transportation
- Academic events, on and off campus
- Campus life activities
- Educational day trips and travel
- Marketing/collegiate branding

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several, often overlooked features. Without knowing all of the considerations, buyers could easily end up with huge repair bills or not enough space for sports gear. First, buyers need to research on service centers. If a motorcoach has only a few service centers in the United States, requiring hundreds of miles and hours to arrive, this lack of available service centers is a sign that repair bills could be outrageous. Additionally, when the bus is out of service, the towing expenses to the service facility would be beyond imaginable. Choosing a front-engine motorcoach built on a common chassis allows access to thousands of service centers nationwide.

A quick look at the total cost of ownership can give prospective buyers a good idea which type of motorcoach would be best for the university. Front-engine motorcoaches not only offer a large network of service centers, but they also have low acquisition costs that are a fraction of the cost of traditional motorcoach acquisition. In comparing features

of a front-engine motorcoach to a traditional motorcoach, prospective buyers will find better fuel efficiency, easier part replacements and availability, fewer underbody parts on the chassis that can be damaged on the road, fewer axles, tires, brakes, lower insurance premiums, and lower toll fees.

Front Engine vs. Flat Nose

- Low total cost of ownership
- Thousands of service centers nationwide
- Enough storage space for large equipment with no obstructions
- Full composite no wood construction
- Fuel efficiency
- Easy to find parts
- Few exposed underbody parts
- Fewer axles, tires, brakes
- Lower toll fees
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Making a Sound Investment

Prospective buyers may wonder how they will know if they have made a sound investment. Overall, the take-away from this guide is that decision-makers need to research, ask the right questions, and consider everything they may want to offer students, staff, and visiting patrons. Most of all, prospective buyers should remember that this purchase is an investment in the future of the university.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Steve Henshaw, Chief Executive Officer of National Bus Sales, and one of the innovators behind

the development of the Ultra Coachliner, has been in the transportation industry for more than thirty years. Begun as the first company to bring reconditioned buses to market, National Bus Sales has become the top bus dealership in the United States. Learn more at ultracoachliner.com.



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Emergency Stations at La Cité College

THE CHALLENGE

The large campus touts ten interconnected buildings and six parking lots set on 60 acres of land. Securing this campus is no easy feat.

THE SOLUTION

Aiphone emergency towers with IX Series intercom stations enable a distressed student to directly have a two-way conversation with campus officers.



“I was happy to know we’d have a high-quality, functional system in place soon after I’d started the job.”

Martin Gregoire
Campus Security Director La Cité College



IX Series

The Situation

Students at Ottawa's French language college – La Cité – are protected by a multi-layer security system. From the time they arrive to one of six parking lots, to roaming within the campus' 10 interconnected buildings, **students have access to reliable security.**

THE CHALLENGE

Opened in 1995, the La Cité campus is Ontario's largest French-language college with over 5,000 students. It offers 140 postsecondary programs with degrees ranging from architecture to security management. The large campus touts ten interconnected buildings and six parking lots set on 60 acres of land. Securing this campus is no easy feat.

THE SOLUTION

The most recent addition to the security system is 15 parking lot emergency towers from Aiphone. The towers with IX Series intercom stations enable a distressed student to directly have a two-way conversation with campus officers. The intercom's embedded camera provides officers with live video to more accurately assess and respond to a situation.

Rock Levesque, project manager for the Ottawa-based security integrator, ComNet Networks and Security, said the new towers replaced previous call stations created by a member of the campus IT department.

The previous stations only allow one-way communication. Pushing the emergency button initiated a siren that was so loud students had difficulty hearing the security staff. Also, the stations often didn't work.

"It defeated the purpose of having a system," Levesque said. "The only thing guards would know is that there was a call from a specific station. An officer would be dispatched having no idea of the situation. And we could spend a week repairing the stations with no guarantee the next day they would still work."

Upgrades to an Emergency System

Concerned about student safety, college administrators decided to upgrade the entire system last fall. About the same time, Martin Gregoire took over as campus security director after 24 years in protective services at the University of Ottawa.

"They asked my opinion of the plan," he said. "I told them security is a lot like an onion with its many layers. They made the right decision to start on the exterior and work their way in. I was happy to know we'd have a high-quality, functional system in place soon after I'd started the job."

La Cité also uses a customized mobile app enabling students to contact security, receive notifications, and perform other non-emergency functions. Gregoire said he also views the AppArmor program as a valuable security layer that augments, rather than replaces, the emergency towers.

"We can have the best plans on paper, but it's when you get hit that you realize what tools are missing or not working. We need to know we will eventually be hit and plan for it now."

Martin Gregoire
Campus Security Director La Cité College



“Security is a lot like an onion with its many layers. They made the right decision to start on the exterior and work their way in.”

Martin Gregoire
Campus Security Director,
La Cité College

“Getting rid of the towers would be a mistake,” Gregoire said “Our towers are connected via landline. They are always on and you can’t lose the signal as you can with a cellular-based system. The towers have no batteries that can die. And security officers immediately know the precise location of a tower call.”

Considering Every Security Angle

Gregoire knows about the loss of cellular service. He was at the University of Ottawa in 2014 when a gunman in the nearby Canadian Parliament building led to a campus lockdown and a temporary loss of cellular service. The campus’ emergency towers helped to fill the communications gap.

La Cité’s emergency towers have the standard blue light that makes them easy to spot at night or in foggy conditions. The intercoms feature two call buttons for different priority levels. An assistance button enables students to seek directions or report a crime, while an emergency button is for summoning immediate help.

Levesque said weather-resistant paging horns attached to the stations are used by officers, provided by Securitas, to provide one-way mass notification information during a lockdown or other emergencies.

This spring, the campus will use optional CCTV arms on four towers to mount Axis 360° multipixel cameras. This will provide the security team with more detailed views of the most distant parking lots. Additional Axis PTZ and bullet cameras are mounted on building exteriors. A Genetec access control system is used throughout campus buildings. There are also panic buttons installed in hallways and some restrooms.

Gregoire is a strong proponent of highly-layered security systems and advanced planning. He supports his ideas with a quote from former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson.

“Reporters asked Tyson if he had a plan for a fight in which he had been knocked down,” Gregoire said. “He said, ‘Yeah, I had a plan until I got hit.’ We can have the best plans on paper but it’s when you get hit that you realize what tools are missing or not working. We need to know we will eventually be hit and plan for it now.”

Both Gregoire and Levesque said the next planned campus security upgrade will involve the installation of emergency towers and stations outside buildings and inside on each floor near stairwells. Budgets will likely require installations to be completed one building at a time.

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OVERHEAD SOLUTIONS



Mount Holyoke College Dining Commons
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An Intimate Feeling Includes the Ceiling

Case Study: Mount Holyoke College Student Dining Commons

Designer: Bergmeyer, Boston MA

A student cafeteria doesn't have to feel like a student cafeteria. The new Student Dining Commons at Mount Holyoke College – a 1000-seat, state of the art, anytime dining center created by Boston design firm Bergmeyer – is intended to offer an inviting, personal experience that evokes some of the school's long tradition of intimate dining rooms. An important element of that effect is an unusual ceiling. It features thermoformed ceiling panels from Ceilume – which meet the strict standards for food service areas and provide visual elegance to elevate the design – combined with conventional flat mineral fiber panels that are used over seating areas around the periphery. The transition between these two types of ceilings is an intermingled effect that helps lead diners from the food service to seating, while also helping to break the large volume of the space into more intimate areas.

The newly constructed Dining Commons is joined to a 19th century gym building that underwent major renovation to create a student center. Bringing all the students to eat together in one central location represented a significant cultural shift for the college, which previously had a dining hall in each dorm. The college studied the idea for 10 years before proceeding.

"We wanted it to be a place where students felt comfortable," recalls Krista Easterly, Interior Designer at

Bergmeyer. The designers sought a look reminiscent of residential settings rather than commercial design. They wanted a ceiling with a sense of style, a coffered look.

Thermoformed Ceilume ceiling panels, made from lightweight rigid vinyl and available in a wide variety of 3-dimensional patterns, offered a solution that met the codes for food service areas, and were more affordable than plaster, wood or mineral fiber coffers.

The Ceilume panels drop into standard 2x2-foot or 2x4-foot ceiling suspension grids, and allow access to the above ceiling cavity.

Bergmeyer's original design called for two patterns of thermoformed panels: Madison, with coffers about 2-½-inch deep, and Cambridge, a similar coffered look created by ½-inch deep molding. Later, the design was expanded to three styles, adding Oxford, which is an inversion of Cambridge. Instead of projecting downward, the molding is recessed into the ceiling, creating a shape that looks very similar, yet shifts how shadows and highlights play across the ceiling and enlivens the overall effect. Exact placements were decided during construction, since the panels are easy to move and not subject to damage.

"We liked the different options of patterns and profiles with Ceilume," recalls Easterly. "One had a deep coffer; the others were almost flat but had that little molding around them. We were able to mix and match.



It was a nice option to get that look, something that had depth to it."

The different types of ceiling panels are blended together through a "graded" transition. "We tried to make it look organic." They concentrated the Ceilume panels over the food service areas, the salad bar and the deli. "That ceiling needs to be cleanable" explains Easterly, "so it was good that it is a washable panel." The thermoformed panels extend over the first adjacent zones of seating and then disperse outwards, giving way to the flat panels.

Achieving acoustical control was no problem, either, despite the hard-polished concrete floors and floor-to-ceiling glass walls. The Ceilume panels, which naturally dampen noise by leveraging the viscous mass of air in the above-ceiling cavity, were installed with Soniguard™ acoustic blankets

on the upper surface for additional control. "The noise level is pretty good," Easterly reports.

The Dining Commons was designed to meet LEED Silver standards. Panels are Greenguard Gold certified and can contribute to LEED credits for acoustics, low emitting materials, and indoor air quality. Both the Ceilume panels and Soniguard acoustic blankets are free of frangible mineral fibers that are known to contribute to respiratory problems.

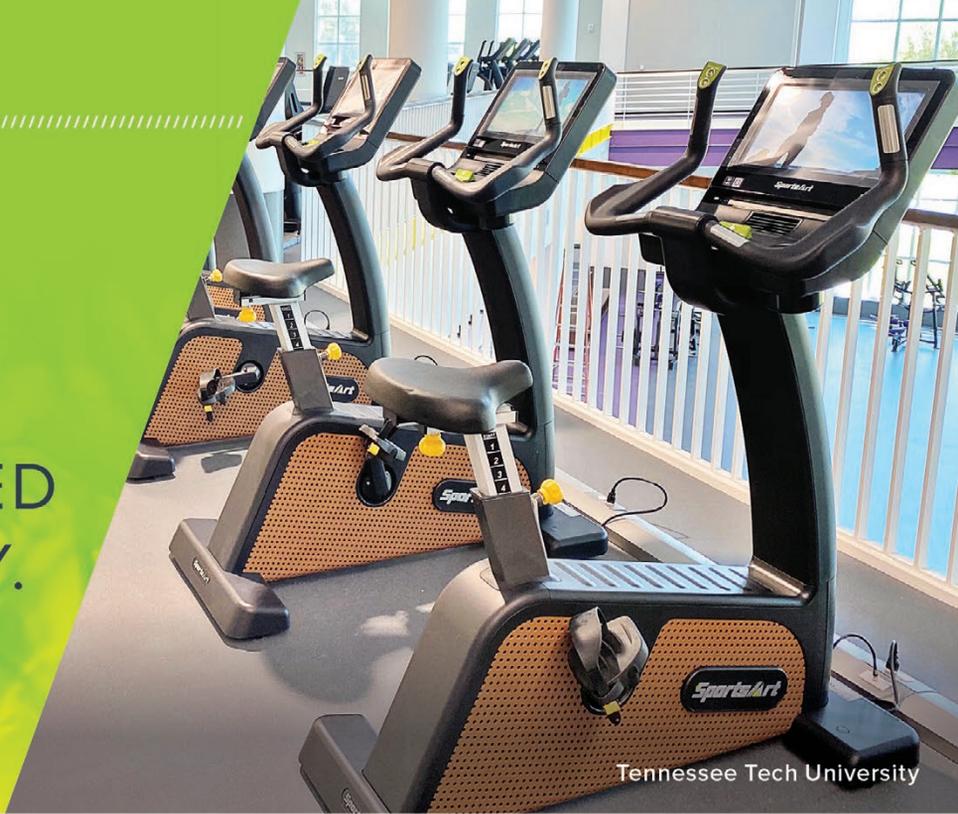
The Mount Holyoke College Dining Commons received an award for Outstanding Design from American School & University magazine and has apparently achieved its goal of creating an inviting place for students. "It's been wildly successful," Easterly relates. "They're selling more meals than they ever imagined. Everybody likes what we created there, so I think it was a success."

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The Steven A. Alder Athletic Complex, originally built in 1972, is the hub for student life on campus at Penn State Altoona. With a remodel underway, architects and staff had a goal to create a space that honored the tradition of welcoming and engaging those on campus while integrating a broad spectrum of wellness and sustainable experiences. They created open flowing spaces and incorporated technology that could seamlessly add sustainable value to align with campus initiatives.

VISUALIZING THE IMPACT

The facility's energy producing cardio equipment incorporated the SA WELL+™ integration to display Penn State Altoona's real-time human energy production and impact. The watts generated and carbon equivalent statistics encourage the users to not only push themselves on their workouts but also encourages them to make sustainable shifts in their everyday activities. Without changing anything in their routines, users can now see how even their smallest movements can contribute to making an overall impact.



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VANTAGE IN ACTION

When the world's greatest swimmers and divers gathered in Atlanta to compete in the 1996 Summer Games, the pool they used was at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Wanting to get incredibly clear, sparkling water and other benefits, the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center entrusted its water to Vantage. The Vantage Water Care Program is designed to give commercial pools the highest quality water with the most efficient, safest and cost-effective method.

According to Debbie Dorsey, Aquatics Director at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center, Vantage has been proven to work under the most demanding conditions.

"Ever since Vantage was installed in July of '95, our water has been incredible," says Dorsey. "The clarity was great during the Olympics - really the ultimate test of the system's performance - and it's still that way."

"One of the best things about Vantage is the support we get," Dorsey continues. "The representatives have been so responsive. They answer all our questions and do whatever it takes to make our jobs easier. Even though we haven't had to call on them very much, it's good to know they are there."

The crystal-clear water produced by Vantage also solves some safety issues. Dorsey explains, "Clarity is important to our lifeguards and swimmers from a safety standpoint. The absence of a chlorine odor makes a big difference, too, especially in the warm-up pool when the bubble enclosure is on."

Aquatics Director Dorsey appreciates that aspect of Vantage. "Using a compatible program like Vantage is great for Georgia Tech because it's gentler on our pump system," she says. "That also means less maintenance - and that's a definite plus."



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As a property owner or facility manager, protecting your investment is imperative. Fire sprinkler systems are a key component to that protection. A dry pipe sprinkler system is a specialized system installed in areas that are subject to freezing, like parking structures or stadiums. Dry systems are filled with compressed air while the water is held back within a conditioned environment. When a sprinkler head's glass is broken from the heat of a fire, the compressed air leaks from the activated head which opens the dry valve and fills the system with water, suppressing the fire. Despite the name, dry pipe fire sprinkler systems often fail due to freezing condensation in low point drains, leaving property owners at risk. Another issue is when sprinkler components are in common areas where the public has access and can damage or vandalize systems.

Utah State University, located in the Northern Utah Mountains had numerous issues with Maverik stadium's auxiliary drains or low point drains. Due to the harsh climate and their location, the drains were susceptible to freezing and vandalism. If one of the drains was opened by an over enthusiastic football fan, the system would lose pressure and fill with water. Resetting the system was time consuming and costly. If an auxiliary drain was not drained before freezing temperatures occurred, the collected condensation would cause the valve to freeze and break. The system would not only fill with water but also leak from the broken drain, flood the surrounding area, and potentially refreeze causing a dangerous slip hazard.

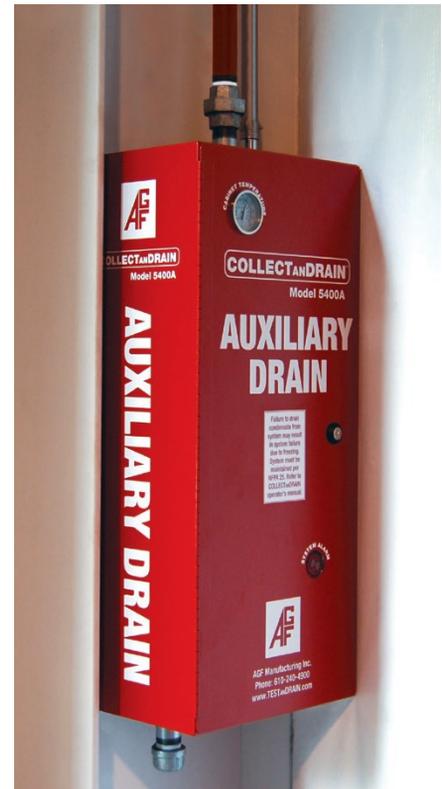
The Aggies had the opportunity to address these issues in their football stadium's dry fire sprinkler system with their most recent renovation. John Blankman, President of Paradise Fire Protection, learned about AGF and the COLLECTANDRAIN heated cabinets at an AFSA (American Fire Sprinkler Association) Trade Show. Frustrated

with standard auxiliary drains that freeze and break, John was looking for a more reliable product that would prevent freezing and provided protection from unwanted tampering. John was impressed with AGF's heated cabinets that enclosed and protected the drains.

The COLLECTANDRAIN heated cabinets are available in three models. The 5400 model is temperature controlled to prevent freezing and include integrated NFPA 25 signage on a lockable cabinet. Model 5450 incorporates a unique feature designed to prevent the auxiliary drain from filling beyond the safety level of the cabinet by automatically shedding condensation from the drum drip in small amounts. After a certain level of condensation has accumulated in the auxiliary drain, additional condensation will spill into a drain trap that is designed to allow it to drain from the system automatically without tripping the dry valve.

The Model 5500 goes beyond that to provide full automation. A programmable logic control (PLC) allows for fully automatic emptying of the auxiliary drain. Set the Model 5500 to automatically empty when the drain is full or wait for the unit to send an alert to the Fire Control Panel or Building Automation System and empty it with the push of an on-site or remote button.

Model 5400 was selected and installed in the stadium and auxiliary drain issues are no longer a problem. They also enjoy saving maintenance time and their dry fire sprinkler system is ready and able to protect their stadium and fans.



To learn more about AGF and their fire sprinkler products that prevent common issues like freezing, flooding and corrosion please visit agfmfg.com.



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Davidson College Gives Students 'A Great Mobile Computing Experience'

Davidson College, a private liberal arts college north of Charlotte, had several stationary lab machines for students to use, but that computing model "didn't fit our vision for the future," says John McCann, user success manager for the college.

To accommodate students' needs in a mobile computing world, Davidson College piloted the use of a six-bay laptop dispensing kiosk from LaptopsAnytime a few years ago. The kiosk distributes three MacBook Airs and three Dell laptops.

Like a number of other colleges, they soon added more devices to meet student demand. It now has two 12-bay kiosks in addition to the original six-bay unit. Even though Davidson is a small college, with only 2,000 students, "we have thousands of device checkouts per year," McCann says.

In placing the kiosks strategically around campus, the college turned to students for their input on where the kiosks should go. One kiosk is located in the library, one is located in the student union, and the third can be found in one of the college's academic buildings. "We placed them in convenient and accessible locations where students tend to get together and study," McCann explains.

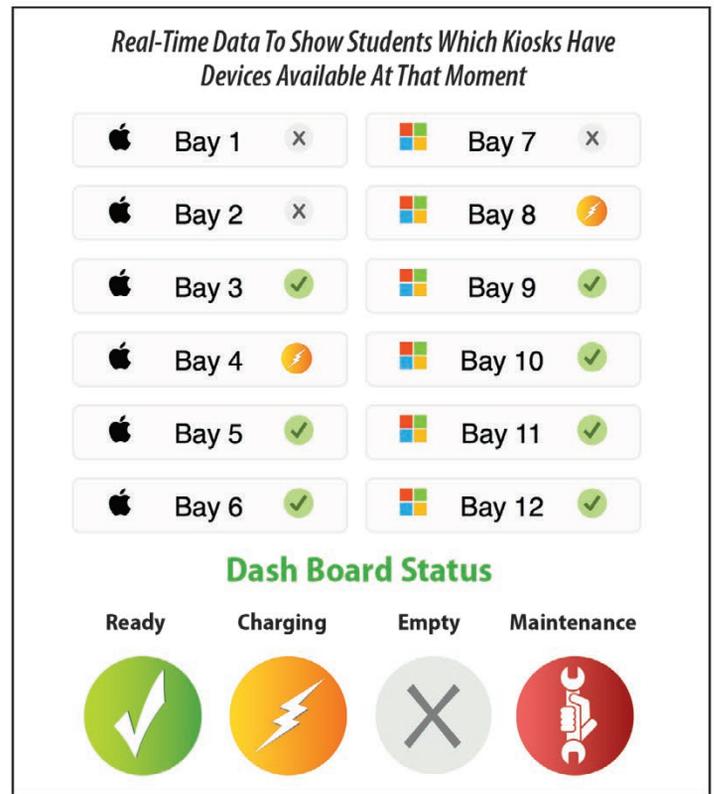
Students often borrow a laptop if they don't have a robust enough device to handle the task they are looking to accomplish, or if their own personal computing device is broken. "Athletes sometimes use them when they go on weekend trips," McCann says, "and some people check out a laptop for a few minutes just to print something."

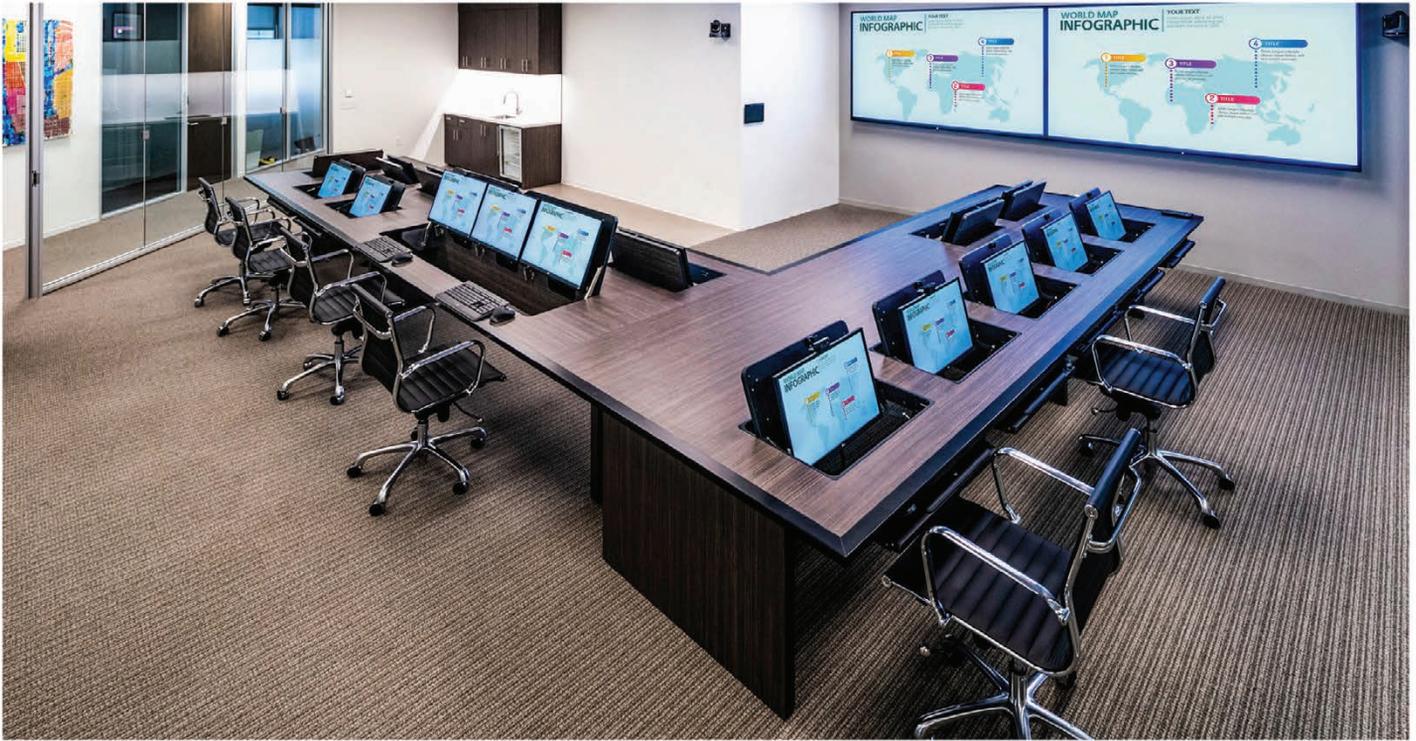
The typical loan period is six hours, he says, because "we don't deploy chargers with the computers." But students aren't penalized if they return a device late; the goal is to help students meet their academic needs.

If a student doesn't return a device on time, the library receives an automated alert. If the device hasn't been returned within a few days, then someone from the library will send a reminder to the student to return the device.

As an added convenience, Davidson has created a website (<https://laptops.davidson.edu>) that pulls real-time data to show students which kiosks have devices available at that moment.

With this automated solution, management of the devices is largely hands-off. "Our overhead and maintenance is pretty low, given that we have 30 devices being checked out multiple times per day," he observes. "It's time-saving for our IT staff, but it also gives our students a great mobile computing experience."





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-Kay Anderle, SMARTdesks Customer

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A Flexible Future Requires Flexible Furniture

Lisa Kaslow and Mira Korber

A well-designed office space or classroom creates an experience with live energy where learning, coaching, and mentoring generate creativity, collaboration and problem solving. While many do not want to return to the office or classroom post-COVID, the hybrid meeting solution provides the flexibility to be virtual and in person simultaneously. Here is a case study of an organization that successfully transitioned to a hybrid meeting setup in a newly designed and provisioned conference training center.

Keller Anderle LLP is a leading, woman-owned law firm and specializes in all types of business litigation. When the entire legal system shut down because of COVID-19, their business model had to change overnight. Kay Anderle, a founding partner of Keller Anderle LLP, began her quest for the perfect hybrid meeting room. She knew that advanced AV systems would accommodate hybrid zoom meetings and support “the new way of lawyering.” Fortunately, remote work was compatible with the court system.

Next, Kay realized that collaborative tables would expand upon the advanced AV system and make hybrid meetings a sustainable mode of work. She designed a workflow where a team of lawyers in one room could collaborate with another team of lawyers across the country. She decided on an AV system designed so each workstation can share a document with any other workstation, enabling real-time collaboration. By providing three large monitors to the examining lawyer, a team of supporting lawyers can quickly send sources over to the one



asking questions. The opposing counsel and deponent can be projected onto one of the big monitors on the wall via Zoom. It was a recipe for success. Keller Anderle LLP lawyers can now meet in their new conference room, while the opposition is free to meet in a different physical location and use the Internet to conference into the deposition: the essence of a hybrid meeting.

According to Kay, a successful interaction with the witness requires screen sharing. Using their collaborative conference table from SMARTdesks®, lawyers around the table can each share supporting documents to one of the three monitors on the main examiner's screen. Since all documents are in the cloud, every workstation allows lawyers to send documents to the main examiner or to pop them up on the wall screens.

After two years of hybrid work styles, it is safe to say that elements of remote work are here to stay. Collaborative furniture, when coupled with a state-of-the-art AV system make hybrid meetings effective. SMARTdesks® hybrid work furniture allows users to fold monitors down when not in use, and can pop them up if needed.

In Kay's words, “Having a dedicated conference room that can be used as a regular conference room and then as a collaborative table is key. Businesses will take up less space post-COVID, but I think that law firms need an excellent AV system setup. You could get away without it before, but not now. Remote work was a big question mark but having the right equipment in place makes it possible.”

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“We’ve heard many positive comments from visitors, so I’m glad to say that Lenox® Lockers helped achieve my original goal of raising customer satisfaction.”

Charles Logan
Director Jamail
Texas Swim Center

CHALLENGE

Renowned as one of the best collegiate Olympic-sized competition pools in the world, the Jamail Texas Swim Center at The University of Texas at Austin holds an average of 40 national level swim competitions every year. As a result, its locker room is subject to high-traffic, repeated usage and a challenging moist and humid environment.

In 2007, Charles Logan, director of the Jamail Texas Swim Center, embarked on a month-long renovation of the center’s locker room. Not only did he want the room to take on more of a contemporary and inviting appearance, he wanted to ensure that the lockers were highly durable and worthy of customer satisfaction.

“Our old metal lockers were plagued with terrible rust issues,” says Logan. “My top goals for this renovation were to improve the overall look of the locker room, use sturdy lockers proven to uphold daily wear and tear - even in a moist and harsh area like a swimming area - and, ultimately, increase the overall satisfaction of those who visit our facility.”

SOLUTION

Because swim locker rooms are notoriously tough environments to keep clean and well-maintained, Logan worked with the university’s Planning and Construction Services department to facilitate the renovation. While the size of the locker room remained unchanged, the new, burnt orange and white colors (the university’s school colors) provided a warm and spirited feel.

Perhaps the most dramatic change in the room was replacing the centerpiece of the space - hundreds of old, weathered steel lockers. The old lockers, which were badly rusted and damaged, were replaced with Bradley’s Lenox® Lockers made of a solid high-density





polyethylene that remains unaffected by moisture, humidity, and chlorine, making them rust-resistant. With an absorption rate of nearly zero, the lockers resist odors, and are designed to withstand impact, dents and scratches that would easily damage metal lockers.

Logan specified the color "Spice" for the two-tiered Lenox Lockers to reinforce the room's new burnt orange color scheme. The restored locker room now holds 250-plus sturdy lockers - including Texas Governor Rick Perry's own personal locker space - which have withstood the swimming area's harsh conditions since 2007.

SOLID PLASTIC LOCKERS OUT-PERFORM METAL LOCKERS

"Lenox Lockers have so many advantages over metal lockers that our choice to go with these plastic lockers was a no-brainer," Logan says. "Aside from their durability, they were very easy to install because they are shipped in one solid piece so they're ready to go after unpacking. Plus, the lockers have been easy to clean and maintain - markers and dirt can be wiped right off with a rag and regular cleaning solution. Needless to say our staff has been very pleased."

Logan was also pleased to learn that Lenox Lockers come with a 20-year guarantee. "It's obvious that everything from the lockers' doors, shelves and handles are more durable than sheet metal," he says, "but it's nice to have a guarantee to back up the product."

"It's been almost two years since installation, and these lockers continue to look excellent and show no signs of damage," Logan says. "We've heard many positive comments from visitors, so I'm glad to say that Lenox Lockers helped achieve my original goal of raising customer satisfaction."



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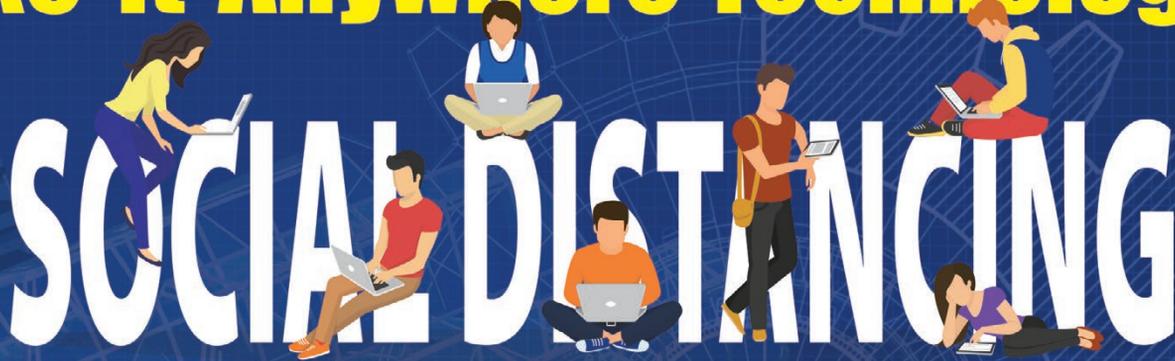
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