

What the CSP Library can do for YOU! New additions and radical changes explained

BY BROOKE STEIGAUF

CSP'S LIBRARY HAS DOUBLED as the student center for many years now, and it is beginning to shape itself to be more accommodating of that role. Recently, it has seemed like every time you walk in, something different is moved, missing, or changed. While the transitions may be confusing, it is all to the benefit of the students. The library team is seeking to condense its services and provide specific places for the various activities and desires of its users.

Multiple departments have moved locations into this space to make task-completion more convenient and efficient for everyone. Remember when the Help Desk was down the hall? Or when you had to ask for directions just to find the Writing Center? Now these services are all offered on the main floor of the library, along with Tutoring Services, International Student Services/Multilingual Language Support, research assistance, and even faculty BlackBoard support (from 10am-2pm).

Library Director Jon Neilson notes that, "Yes, the library has books and other physical materials and always will, but it's also so much more than that." Over the past year, 20,000 outdated books and 400 feet of shelving have been disassembled and removed to create more room for studying, hanging out, and receiving academic services.

The changes made were in accordance with observations of the students' prior use of the library. For example, the south side (with the windows that look out onto the Knoll) has always been more social than the north side. With that in mind, the library is planning to install "cafe style seating" (high tables), collaborative work space where students can receive academic support services and also engage in both formal and informal cooperative learning, and more lounge seating.

Other notable changes on the horizon include a relocation and increase of the library computers to the south side, while its current placement will be remodeled to mirror the projector area on the other side of the dividing wall. Both these areas and their projectors will become more officially rentable for student use.

The library as a whole will also become an explicit place for events to be hosted. And while there will continue to be more alterations and ideas explored, one more to note is the addition of rentable cell phone chargers! Neilson and the planning committee hope that through intentional arrangement of space and services, they can balance the library as a social hub and academic attraction.

It is no secret that the library is for the students. With that in mind, we are encouraged to give our feedback in order to see that student needs and wants are met. If you have seen a void or have ideas for the library, be proactive! Talk to anyone at the centrally-located desk or email Director Jon Neilson at neilson@csp.edu. Otherwise, take full advantage of the space! It is yours to use, after all! †

Drug maker to Sell Insulin Half Price

BY ANDREW WYLIE

DRUG MANUFACTURER ELI LILLY & Co. will soon begin to sell insulin at half the price. The company currently distributes one of the bestselling insulin drugs, called Humalog. But this new model is considered a generic version that will sell for half the cost, providing a much-needed price reduction for a product that has drawn plenty of criticism over the last few years because of skyrocketing costs.

There are currently three major pharmaceutical companies that distribute insulin: Novo Nordisk, Sanofi, and Lilly. These companies all contend that the hefty prices are due to the extraordinarily high costs involved in manufacturing this particular type of insulin.

Insulin is born out of a very large and very complex molecule. Its complexity stems from the fact that insulin is now genetically modified as an analog insulin. This change took place in the 1990s and has all but replaced the synthetic insulin that was used previously. The analog version reportedly works faster and with more predictable results, but the costs of manufacturing the analog insulin versus the synthetic are significantly higher.

Regardless of the reasons, many have viewed the high costs of insulin as unfair and financially burdensome. It has become a political hot topic, with many politicians searching for answers in combating this issue that is affecting so many. A few CEO's of these companies have been summoned to Washington to testify at hearings.

There is also currently a class action lawsuit against the three manufacturers which accuse them all of setting the prices unnecessarily high in order to maximize their profits.

There is no doubt that one of the reasons for the high price of the drug is that for many people, their insurance plans do not adequately carry enough of the costs. Patients are left having to cover a large percentage with their co-pays, or in some cases, the whole cost.

According to Yahoo finance, out-of-pocket costs for patients with commercial insurance and Medicare have increased about 60% since 2012, while the price of insulin has only decreased marginally in the same period. Having an authorized generic option of the real thing will help stem these high out-of-pocket costs for patients that are struggling to pay for the medication they so desperately need. The Lilly half-price generic pen goes for \$137.35. This is the first real discount that has arrived on the market.

With millions of Americans suffering from diabetes, this may pressure the other two companies to follow suit with their own lower priced options. With growing awareness and pressure being put on the political class, there is hope that more solutions will arrive soon. †



Photography provided by Brooke Steigauf

