

# The Pioneer

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## ONLINE REGISTRATION AT COOPER

YARA ELBOROLOS (CE '14)

No, it is not just a rumor. Cooper Union has been working on implementing a system that would allow students to register for their classes. Colleague is the name of the system that was purchased from Datatel, a company that has provided online systems for various colleges. The earliest the online registration will be implemented is in the fall, according to Dean Lipton. The reason that it has not been implemented yet is because of the training that is required for the staff and the students to go through to be able to use the program. Dean Lipton also stated in order to register online, there would have to be a way for advisors to approve registration cards online, which is what a program called E-advisor would do.

According to both Dean Lipton and Professor Hopkins, this is a very comprehensive system, which involves a lot of the offices in 30 Cooper. The business office, admissions office, Dean Lemisz, and the fundraising office are some of the offices that meet up every week with a representative from Datatel. Dean Lipton warns that it won't change the inventory of classes, meaning there will still be students locked out of classes. The admissions office is very excited for the system because not only will it

make registration easier but it could also allow interested students' information to be in the system before they even apply. If the students do end up applying to Cooper, their information will already be stored, simplifying the admissions process. There will even be an online portal where you can request transcripts, make changes to your address, and so on. (Dean Lipton is asking for students' opinions on the transcript layout and how the admissions' office can improve them. Feel free to email him at lipton@cooper.edu with your opinions). There will still be someone double-checking the information entered but it will reduce the error and the time spent on data entry.

Speaking to Professor Hopkins gave us a better look at the technical aspect of the online system. He says it is a very complicated project that involves one large system that has many aspects to it. This is the first time Cooper will use an online system and the real test of this system will be whether or not it works for our unique environment. Most colleges do have a form of online registration because of the number of both students and classes available. At Cooper, registration and good academic progress is a product of good advisement, which is something we don't want to lose with the new system. With the e-advisor, it will make it

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## WORK MAKES WORK EXHIBITION SESSION 2

JENNA LEE (ME '15)

Work Makes Work is a student-initiated exhibition in response to the recent financial situation in Cooper Union. Unlike other exhibitions where viewers primarily remained passive, this exhibition welcomes everyone to share thoughts in any form – words, drawings, installations, and performances. All ideas and wishes to promote financial stability of the Cooper Union are especially welcomed.

The exhibition has been on display on the second floor lobby of the Foundation building since the middle of February. The pre-session exhibit was rather static, consisting of several blackboards and chalk. Every visitor can freely add his or her ideas to the boards. The first exhibition, however, became more energetic and proactive. It all started with a chalk-drawing performance around the Cooper campus and many people who passed by joined in on the act. It was a collaborative performance to wish for Cooper's successful and bright future. It also symbolized the unification of Cooper's three schools and all buildings, including the torn down 51 Astor Place engineering building. Since the beginning of Work Makes Work, the exhibition has actively collected the ideas from the Cooper community while stressing the importance of collaboration.

The second exhibition was an extension of the first. On display were a number of objects scattered throughout the lobby, from a green horse with a red wig to a toy piano. Also, there were other installations, including kiss prints forming "I love CU" and several canvases with blurbs leaning against the wall. All seemingly irrelevant objects had a common red flag, as if to indicate the urgency of Cooper's financial situation. Even if everyone in our community come from different places and have differing ideas and, we all share a common hope for Cooper's success. On the second floor lounge of the Foundation building, where people were only occasionally passing by, the dozens of red flags attracted attention.

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Work makes work exhibition session 2. Photos by Jenna Lee (ME '15)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

With regard to The Pioneer's Feb. 21 printing of Article Sixteen of the agreement between The Cooper Union and the CUFCT, "Student Work Surveys of Bargaining Unit Work Performance," I respect each professor's right to privacy, but not nearly as much as I respect each student's right to quality education. If each professor faithfully administered a survey to students regarding his or her work at the end of each course and took the results seriously, then we wouldn't be having this discussion. In my experience, the professors who refrain from giving surveys and actively seeking feedback are those who need feedback the most. Just as students require feedback to improve as students, teachers--even the tenured ones--require feedback to improve as teachers.

While some professors do not go out of their way to seek feedback, others are downright disrespectful in their lack of consideration toward the students. In response to the behavior and attitudes of these individuals, I propose the implementation of a student-administered survey of teacher performance, the results of which shall be publicly reported. While this may seem draconian, it needs to be implemented only until Article Sixteen is repealed or until the faculty reform their personal policies. I am very grateful to the vast majority of my professors for their high level of instruction, and the others are mere exceptions. Unfortunately, it is the few who spoil it for the rest.

- By Anonymous

## CLOSING OF THE COOPER UNION LIBRARY?

CATHERINE SANZO (CE '14)

While Cooper Union's financial troubles are well known by most students and teachers, solutions to these difficulties seem to be much less prevalent. The Cooper Union Task force, organized by President Jamshed Bharucha, is currently investigating methods to improve revenue flow for the school. Non-Cooper websites are also making headlines through petitions and suggestions. One of these suggestions is to reevaluate the need for the Cooper Union Library given the costs associated with its upkeep. Some are proposing to close the Library since most students spend their time in the studios or New Academic Building. Also, the agreement with New York University's Bobst library allows students to enjoy a study-friendly environment with access to a variety of texts.

The Cooper Union Library, located on the first floor of the Foundation Building, costs a little less than one million dollars annually to run, servicing roughly 1,800 student visits per school week, according to Carol Salomon, the acting director and archive librarian. These statistics were presented to President Bharucha in the fall. Though he could not guarantee that the library would be unaffected, he expressed his support.

Some find the million dollar yearly budget to be too high. Closing the library is a viable option since students have access to Bobst and over 8,880 people accessed it in this year alone. Cooper Union was granted its reciprocity with Bobst in 1976, allowing Cooper students to acquire books that concern engineering, architecture, and fine arts exclusively. Jessica Spears, Cooper Union's library assistant, argues that Cooper's tremendously specialized and unique collection is one of the main reasons the Cooper library should not close. Furthermore, unlike Bobst, most of Cooper's books are available in-site rather than in off-campus sites expediting the research process for students in a hurry. Spears asserts that this advantage,

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## ONLINE REGISTRATION

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easier for students to get their cards approved but face to face conversations are always much better.

Both Professor Hopkins and Dean Lipton emphasized that since Cooper is such a small and intimate place, they don't want the online registration to be a way for students to avoid these meaningful conversations. The registration period is a time where both the Admissions office and academic advisors can actually see the students and how they are doing, which is something they appreciate a lot. Professor Hopkins revealed that Cooper has been working on this project for about a year now. It will be a couple of years until the system is at its ideal form and that all of the kinks have been worked out. The old way had a lot of personal interaction and allowed the students to feel comfortable asking questions to their advisors and even the people at admissions.

The system is a fairly expensive one that has involved a huge commitment, some cultural shifts, and the classes will probably have to be planned out ahead of time. However, this product has worked in many other colleges so Cooper will be fine. One of the things that will definitely assist us in making the system better, according to Dean Lipton, is a lot of student feedback. We need to know what's working and what is not on both of ends of the spectrum in order to provide Cooper with the best.

## STUDENTS' LIST

MARCUS MICHELEN (CE '14)

In case you haven't noticed yet, the results of Engineering Student Council's "Students' List" have been posted all around the New Building. The idea behind the "Students' List" is to produce a reverse version of the Dean's List: students choose who they think is the best professor at Cooper (via e-mail). This was limited to full time faculty members only. The list is reproduced below:

- Prof. Paul M. Bailyn
- Prof. Joseph C. Cataldo
- Prof. Toby J. Cumberbatch
- Prof. Benjamin J. Davis
- Prof. Fred L. Fontaine
- Prof. Vito A. Guido
- Prof. Stanislav Mintchev
- Prof. George W. Sidebothom
- Prof. Robert W. Smyth
- Prof. Cosmas Tzavelis
- Prof. Robert R. Uglesich
- Prof. Alan N. Wolf

The most represented departments (by number of members on the list) are the math department and the civil engineering department with three each. On the other hand, the physics department only has two full-time faculty members and both are represented so, technically, the physics department has 100% representation. The only engineering department that is not represented is the chemistry department.

## KENKEN

MARCUS MICHELEN (CE '14)

**Instructions:** Like Sudoku, each row and column must contain the numbers from 1 to 5. The number in the upper-left corner of the bolded shape made up of squares is the number you need to get by using the operation next to the number. The solution to this puzzle will be released next week. The solution to the KenKen from Mini-Issue #9 is below.

4	1	3	6	5	2
2	5	1	4	3	6
5	3	2	1	6	4
3	2	6	5	4	1
6	4	5	2	1	3
1	6	4	3	2	5

## CU LIBRARY CLOSING?

(continued from front)

along with the availability and resourcefulness of the staff, differentiates Cooper Union's library from NYU Bobst's.

Recognizing the financial crisis, Spears and Salomon describe an alternate solution to closing the library: from 1859-1903, Peter Cooper rented the first two floors of the foundation building to retail companies and corporate offices for additional sources of revenues. One office was even held by Susan B. Anthony on the second floor. Cooper Union might benefit from re-exploring these

options.

In addition, Cooper Union had a "reading room" during the school's beginning years. Today, the librarians receive multiple phone calls from members of the community who ask if the library is open to the public. While it currently is not, guest access might be a useful way to allow students from other colleges and third-party researchers to enjoy a quiet study environment at our benefit. Bobst employs a similar policy, charging \$750 for a yearly guest card.

## VALENTINE'S DATE AUCTION

CHRISTOPHER HONG (EE '13)

On Thursday, February 9, 2012, the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) held a date auction. In this auction, dates with students for FebCeb (an annual celebration sponsored by the Athletic Association) were auctioned off and all of the money raised was donated to Socialite. Socialite is a project that aims to solve the limited lighting resources available in Africa. This project provides low cost lighting to African villages. Socialite lanterns are simple, low cost sources of light for each household and would be recharged every few week at a charging station in the village or community. The lanterns were designed by students from Cooper Union and Wa Polytechnic (Ghana, Africa).

The goal of this auction was to raise \$1,500 for Socialite. The date auction raised a total of \$1,469 and the remaining \$31 was donated to obtain this goal. Students Ciera Lowe and Joanna Cruz handed the check to Professor Toby Cumberbatch last week. The most expensive dates were Sasha Vera (\$100, sold to Marcello Ricottone), Ciera Lowe (\$81, sold to Mike Benoit), and Amanda Yuan (\$80, sold to Alex Proctor). In addition, The

Quarternones (Nico Castro, Dan Baamonde, Michael Luke and Neil Miur) were sold for \$200 to Daniel Gitzel. Dean Baker gave out free tickets to FebCeb to the individuals who sold for the most.

According to Professor Cumberbatch, the money will be used to buy 6V lead acid batteries, LEDs, circuit boards, chips, bicycle spokes, and hair relaxer tubs for about 80 lanterns. The money raised will cover the assembly costs of the lanterns and the installation of the system in a village. The charging station will be supplied from Cooper Union's existing stock of solar panels and batteries. Currently, the cost of electronic parts for a lantern is about \$16 and the assembly and housing will be an extra \$1. The transport and installation by students from Wa Polytechnic University will use remaining \$140.

Cooper Union students are currently finalizing the lighting system in a suitcase for deployment this summer. With Socialite, many villages in Africa that do not have electricity will be able to enjoy a low cost and reliable lighting system that uses simple materials and uses "green" energy from the sun.

## WMW EXHIBITION 2

(continued from front)

The third and the last exhibition started on March 3rd and will close on March 6th. People who care about our institution have set the stage to communicate freely about Cooper's financial situation. If you are one of the Peter Cooper's beneficiaries, it would be nice to just drop by and share your ideas, and spend a few minutes contributing to potential solutions to the crisis that our school has encountered.



Work makes work exhibition session 2. Photos by Jenna Lee (ME '15)



## STAIRCASE DESIGN CONTEST EXTENDED

This is a reminder that the staircase design contest deadline is March 12 at 12PM. The grand prize is \$50 and there are two runner up prizes of \$25 each. Please submit your designs to cooperpioneer@gmail.com. Visit our website <http://pioneer.cooper.edu> and look under "Contests" for more information.



Jenna Lee (ME'15)

12x		11+		
	4-		2÷	1-
7+	2÷	3		
		12x		11+
24x				

Solution to Mini Issue #9's Cryptoquote:

OUR IMAGINATION IS STRETCHED TO THE UTMOST, NOT, AS IN FICTION, TO IMAGINE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT REALLY THERE, BUT JUST TO COMPREHEND THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE THERE

-RICHARD FEYNMAN

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