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Exterior of Dinand Gets a New Look

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Exterior of Dinand Library Gets a New Look

The exterior of Dinand Library saw a number of changes during the 2015-16 academic year: a new rooftop garden and two art installations in the library's exterior spaces.

The garden, located over the west wing of the library, is a new serene outdoor area for students to study and congregate, overlooking the hills of Worcester. The renovation of the previously unused space was made possible with donations from the Class of 1990, in celebration of their 25th reunion.



The garden became even more welcoming when the "Lungs of the Planet" mural was installed. Nearly 120 first-year students from the Natural World Montserrat cluster, in collaboration with the visual arts department, Worcester Center for Crafts, Dinand Library and the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery, constructed the mural during the spring semester. Virginia Raguin, distinguished professor of humanities and professor of visual arts, spearheaded the project.

The permanent mural stretches eight feet high and 12 feet wide, depicting a pair of lungs with trachea that transform into tree branches that support various flowers and birds; the background is made up of tiles carrying images of blossoms, fruit, animals and chemical diagrams to symbolize the cycle of life.

The Montserrat students, as well as 20 additional students from other class years and a range of Holy Cross faculty and staff, worked on the expansive project—from tracing images using carbon paper and painting the tiles, to packing the tiles to be fired off-campus and attaching them to backing boards before they were mounted by building and grounds professionals at the College.

The colorful "Civitas Branching" mosaic was installed on the wall of the Dinand Library plaza over the east wing of the building. The mosaic, which was created 12 years ago by 14 Holy Cross students and 13 members of the surrounding neighborhood community, represented the cooperation between the two. It was previously located on the former College Hill Civic Association Building on Kendig Street. With the recent repurposing of that building into a Habitat for Humanity home, the mosaic was relocated to Holy Cross and received a second dedication.

The six-paneled ceramic and glass tile mosaic, which stands three feet tall by 24 feet wide, depicts an apple and pear tree, representing Holy Cross and the neighborhood community respectively, with branches reaching towards each other, intertwining. The other four panels show scenes set in each of the four seasons. ■

—*Evangelia Stefanakos '14*

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