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## around the POND

BY DEBRA MEYERS

### Summer Projects, Year-round Improvement

JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST WERE EXCEPTIONALLY BUSY MONTHS ON CAMPUS, AS NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS GOT UNDERWAY AND ONGOING PROJECTS MOVED FORWARD.



PHIL DUTTON

#### PINTO FAMILY LANGUAGE LAB

With a curriculum that includes more than 40 courses in three foreign languages—and with a quarter of those taught at the honors and AP level—Taft is among the top independent schools for foreign language study. The Pinto Family Language Lab not only secures that position but also takes the language program to new heights.

The renovations, made possible through the generosity of Maurice Pinto '51 and Marc Pinto '79, converted the lab from one large room into two separate but adjoining spaces, with a total

of 32 workstations and the functional capacity for group and individual listening, recording and internet access. While the smaller space functions much like a traditional language lab, the larger room has workstations wrapped around the central Harkness-style table that offers new opportunities for program delivery and a computer-driven Smartboard.

“We worked closely with the team from David Thompson Architects to create an environment that would enrich learning and support both large and small group activity,” explained Baba Frew, head of the Modern Language

Department. “This new space allows us to meet as a class for our lesson, utilize the Smartboard, then break into smaller groups to more fully explore the concepts and content of the material.”

In addition to internet access and the usual software, each workstation is equipped with a computer that runs *Digital Language Learning Lab* (DiLL), an advanced audio network technology tool that converts a traditional lab into virtual space. Developed at Northwestern University, DiLL allows instructors to communicate with students individually, as a group or in small teams. It also gives students the option to slow down audio while maintaining the original pitch.

“We are stressing the communicative aspect of language learning more than ever, and enhancing our curriculum with the technological advances that are a natural part of our students’ lives. In all,” added Frew, “the way we present information has been revolutionized.”

#### TREMAINE ART STUDIO

The Tremaine Art Studio is the quintessential artist’s space: bright, airy and inspired. Named in recognition of the generosity of the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation and given in honor of B. Tyler Tremaine '95 and Whitney Tremaine O'Brien '96, the space has undergone months of renovation that both preserves and enhances its original beauty.

New energy-efficient windows are among the 1,100 Taft has replaced around campus so far, and are the same windows used at both Yale and Harvard. Electric shades with east and west controls allow art teacher Loueta