

SAM COHEN

SUMMARY

CONTACT

203.824.9347
mail@samcohen.io

IT LEADER WITH 15+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN HIGHER ED

Experienced IT leader with demonstrated success delivering scalable, student/user-optimized systems and translating objectives into sustainable, award-winning solutions.

Expertise in user-centered design and development with a focus on creating meaningful digital experiences. Fluent in web programming technologies and standards. Proven mastery of enterprise web platforms, digital accessibility, technology strategy, and the application of AI in academic environments.

CURRENT

2013–PRESENT

Yale University
New Haven, CT
Office of International and
Summer Programs

DIRECTOR OF IT / DIRECTOR OF IT SPECIAL INITIATIVES

The Yale Office of International and Summer Programs (OISP) is comprised of several Yale units including Study Abroad, Summer Session, and other satellite programs. Support extends to the Office of Career Strategy and Fellowship Programs. The OISP's staff are made up of advisors, administrators, and support staff. In this dual-role position, a portion of my time includes delivery and oversight of special IT initiatives within Yale College.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead, guide, and integrate technical initiatives including all aspects of a project's life cycle: project management, design, development, training, integration, project-related contracts, and budgets
- A core member of the OISP's leadership team and manager of the IT team, IT students, and Safety Net project manager, and a Yale College advisor as a Fellow in Yale's Grace Hopper Residential College
- Shepherd the OISP units towards the use of AI-integrated tools in systems and processes; champion a culture of innovation by introducing emerging technologies and encouraging creative, tech-driven solutions that promote staff efficiency and enhance student engagement
- Facilitate the ongoing development and maintenance of the OISP's portfolio of websites and web systems
- Run the OISP's Tech Committee and contribute to Yale's AI Community of Practice and Web Ops team
- Lead presentations and workshops for Yale College and OISP staff; topics ranging from AI tools and techniques, to web accessibility, systems training, and technical presentations

PROJECTS AND RESULTS

- Trained an AI-powered virtual course advisor to assist students with course selection, significantly reducing tier 1 advising responsibilities enabling staff to focus on high-impact, in-person student support
- Leveraged AI to highlight key patterns in successful fellowship proposals and study abroad program reports empowering students to craft stronger proposals and access critical program details
- Developed a custom web framework and editor tools exceeding WCAG 2.0 web accessibility requirements
- Launched multiple custom database systems (study abroad program search, fellowship awards search, financial resources), enabling students to access information, reducing staff workload
- Designed, developed, and maintain the *Linda K. Lorimer Award*-winning Yale College Safety Net platform streamlining student financial hardship assistance, facilitating over 15,000 requests, and providing more than \$1,000,000 in support
- Implemented custom web features throughout the OISP websites such as API-powered course feeds and event synchronization, to enhance real-time content delivery and integration
- Lead the design, development, and deployment of the Yale Student Grants Database, a university-wide tool for managing and applying to more than 300 grant and fellowship opportunities

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WORK

2010–2013

Yale University
New Haven, CT

Center for Media and
Instructional Innovation

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIST / WEB DEVELOPER

The Yale Center for Media and Instructional Innovation (CMI2) is a technical and creative team focusing on building innovative systems to support faculty instruction, special research, and cutting-edge pedagogical approaches to teaching and learning.

- Worked closely with faculty to coordinate, organize, and manage the planning, research, and development of web-based applications, enriching both teaching and learning experiences
- Projects include: large scale, multi-user, stock market simulator; bi-matrix game theory research application; *Open Yale Courses*, a streaming media system that distributes full Yale course video and supporting materials; companion website and mobile application for the *Echoes of Egypt* exhibit and installation at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History

2007–2010

Fairfield University
Fairfield, CT

Computing & Network Services

SENIOR WEB DEVELOPER

Fairfield University's Computing & Network Services (CNS) oversees the central IT and technical support for the campus. CNS is responsible for network infrastructure, web and application development, training, and desktop support.

- Built, organized, and maintained a vast array of web-based applications for faculty, staff, students, and organizations on campus
- Projects include: set up, configuration, and optimization of web servers to communicate with web applications and databases; facilitated the technical component of Fairfield University's 3000 page website redesign; web-based database application for editing the undergraduate and graduate course catalogs; mobile calendaring application to promote the university's public events; the university's events calendar, room-booking system, and campus-wide digital signage

1999–2000, 2001–2005

Mestek, Inc.
Westfield, MA

LEAD GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Mestek is a family of over 45 specialty manufacturers serving the many facets of the residential and commercial architectural industry.

Designed advertisements, brochures, catalogs, and all printed literature for the vast selection of products under the Mestek Incorporated company name.

2000–2001

Cuttriss & Hambleton Design
Berkeley, CA

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

The Cuttriss & Hambleton Design Group is an award-winning graphic design and web design firm based in Berkeley, California.

Worked on the production of full color magazines, performance posters, advertisements, catalogs, and websites for an exciting array of clientele, including the San Francisco Symphony, University of California at Berkeley, and Communication Systems Design Magazine.

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TEACH

2007–2013

Quinnipiac University
Hamden, CT

INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATIONS / DIGITAL DESIGN

Adjunct faculty; *Interactive Communications* graduate major and *Digital Design* undergraduate major.

Courses taught: *Web Programming*, core web technologies like HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and content management systems; *Visual Aesthetics*, foundational design concepts like color theory, visual balance, and typography; *Producing Content for Mobile Media*, focusing on mobile media design; *Digital Design I & II*, design aesthetics and the industry standard tools for print and web design.

2004–2005

Westfield State University
Westfield, MA

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND COMPUTER ARTS

Adjunct faculty; *Graphic Design* and *Computer Arts* undergraduate majors. Projects and lessons inspired by my own professional web and print design experience.

LEARN

2005–2007

Quinnipiac University
Hamden, CT

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Interactive Media and Communications major; Award for Academic Excellence (2007)

2002–2004

Westfield State University
Westfield, MA

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Graphic Design, Electronic Media majors; Phi Kappa Phi Honors; Academic Achievement; Credits transferred from Holyoke Community College, Holyoke, MA, Associate of Science (1998–2000)

MISCELLANY

OTHER PROJECTS

TEACHING OUR CITIES

The supporting website highlighting the schools and projects participating in the Teaching Our Cities project.

CT SCHOOL GARDEN RESOURCE CENTER

An online collaboration tool for Connecticut educators to share garden and nature-based curriculum.

LEARNING STORIES

An online tool for early childhood teachers to categorize, organize, and display students' physical, mental, and emotional development.

SMALL WORLD INITIATIVE

The supporting website and web-based database system used to house and share global soil and biological chemical data.

RECOGNITION AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- Lead a *Practical AI* workshop for over 150 Yale faculty and staff (2026)
- One of a select group admitted to the *Emerge at Yale, Extraordinary Leadership Program* (2025–2026)
- Featured interview, *Yale College Voices* (2023, www.samcohen.io/podcast)
- Yale College First-Year Advisor, Grace Hopper College (2021–current)
- *People's Choice Webby Award*, Yale College website (2020)
- *Linda K. Lorimer Award* for Distinguished Service to Yale University, Yale College Safety Net (2019)
- *Empowering Content Editors* presentation, Digital Collegium (2016)
- ITIL Certification (2011)
- Client website design featured in *Photography* magazine (2003)