



Library Link

Fall 2009

Van Wagenen Library, State University of New York at Cobleskill

We Have a New Dean!

We are pleased to introduce you to the Library's new Dean— Elizabeth (Beth) Orgeron! Our former Dean, Nancy Van Deusen, retired this summer and, while she will be missed, we're excited to have Ms. Orgeron joining the Library team. Beth comes to us from nearby Hartwick College where she served as College Librarian & Director of Information Resources since 2006. Prior to that she worked at Southeastern Louisiana University and Loyola University.

As we're all getting to know this new person in our midst, we decided to ask her a few questions to help everyone on campus get acquainted with her as well.

LL: Let's get the most important question out of the way first. This is a college campus after all— do you like to cook and do you have any specialties?

Orgeron: I love to cook, absolutely love it. I just received one of the Barefoot Contessa cookbooks which is great for generating ideas (especially when you are hungry). I can cook Cajun food very well, but also I have been making my own pizzas. I am currently experimenting with white pizzas. For the past few years, I have subscribed to a CSA (farm share from a local organic farm). This has opened up new ideas for cooking what is in season and from the region.

LL: You're originally from New Orleans, how did you find your way to Upstate NY?

Orgeron: My family and I evacuated in August 2005 for hurricane Katrina and never went back. Because the city was essentially closed for months, we had to focus on moving forward. There was an opening at Hartwick College, I applied and was lucky enough to land the job. It was a great decision; we are devotees to this area and absolutely love it here—even the snow!

LL: It's early days yet, but what excites you about your new position at Cobleskill?

Orgeron: Cobleskill seems to be abuzz with energy. There

New & Upgraded Online Research Databases

Sometimes it really pays to be part of SUNY. Thanks to our participation in SUNYConnect (the SUNY library consortium) the Library now offers more than a dozen new online research databases— and several of our existing databases have been upgraded! Our research databases now cover a broader array of subjects, and the depth of that coverage has also increased.

New online database offerings include: Alt Health Watch; Computers and Applied Sciences Complete; Environment Complete; Health Source (both Consumer and Nursing/Academic Editions); Humanities International Complete; Newspaper Source Plus; Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection (see p. 2 for more details on this one); Religion and Philosophy Collection; and many more.

Among the upgraded databases is one of our most heavily utilized resources— Academic Search. We've gone from the

are so many building projects underway, I was amazed. I also am really impressed with the level of experiential learning integrated into the curriculum.

LL: What made you become a librarian?

Orgeron: I met the dean of the LSU library school at a brunch and after great conversations of what I should do with my life after undergraduate graduation, she recommended I meet with the library school faculty who represented all aspects of librarianship: school, public, academic, special/corporate, and archives. It was enlightening and librarianship seemed to be a perfect fit for me. Many years later, I still love it and see libraries as one of the more important services to society.

LL: What was the last book you read for fun, not for work?

Orgeron: Well, in addition to books that I read for my book club, the last book that I read and loved was *Doomsday Book* by Connie Willis. The title sounds a little scary and end of the world-ish, but it is actually about time travel.

LL: One last question, what's your favorite movie?

Orgeron: That is both an easy and hard question as there are so many films I would deem my favorite. Right now, I am really enjoying the Harry Potter movies.

We'd like to thank Beth for this peek into her life and hope this gives everyone a starting point for when they meet her in the weeks and months to come. We're sure that, when you do, you'll be excited about her coming to Cobleskill, too.



Premier level to Complete. This means SUNY Cobleskill students, faculty, and staff now have access to the full-text of more than 2,000 additional journals, most of them peer-reviewed. The Business Source database has also been upgraded from Premier to Complete. Another upgraded database is MEDLINE. We've gone from the citation-only level to MEDLINE with Full Text. This more robust version includes full-text for over 1400 journals, including 500+ not found in other databases.

These and our other research databases are a treasure trove of information available 24/7 through the Library's website (www.cobleskill.edu/library). Once you're there, go to the Electronic Databases section and you're on your way. Stop by and see a Reference Librarian if you have any questions or problems. You can also contact us at x5841 or Library@cobleskill.edu.

Banging and Clanking and Shaking, Oh My!

Renovations are now underway on the Library's lower level. Work on the main level is due to begin in the summer of 2010. Blocked off areas, noise, dust, odd chemical smells, and the occasional loss of water and/or power are to be expected for the next couple of years. Yes, you read that correctly— years. The situation will absolutely be inconvenient and annoying at times but it is all for a good cause.

The current efforts downstairs include new electrical and ventilation systems. Those of you who were here last fall may remember the demise of the old, original-to-the-building ventilation system which necessitated the hasty relocation of CASE to the upstairs. The lower level is also getting new walls in the offices and more computer ports, among other things. It will be a much more user-friendly space when complete. And it'll have heat again which is a big plus!

New DisAbility Support Program Helps with Transitioning

Orientation of students with a disability is an important activity of the DisAbility Support Services (DSS) office. This summer DSS Coordinator Lynn Abarno led a new orientation program for students and parents. "Spring Into Fall" Transition Days took place on July 6, 17, and 23.

These half-day programs gave new students an opportunity to share their concerns and ask questions of their upperclassmen. Also, parents were able to get a better idea of the services available to their students and discuss the difficulties of "letting go."

We know that this is going to be aggravating for people. Trust us, we'll be suffering right along with you. Just keep reminding yourself that, at the end of this whole thing, the Library will have a new publicly-accessible elevator, more and better bathrooms, an ADA-compliant front desk, a new conference room upstairs, a more energy-efficient lighting system, and many other improvements. Assuming things don't get too far off schedule, the entire renovation project will be complete in time for the fall 2011 semester.

We will do our best to keep everyone in the loop via Sharepoint, email, etc. as things happen here at the Library. Future issues of the newsletter will also provide further "big picture" information. As we move along with this project, please feel free to let us know if you have any questions or concerns (x5841 or Library@cobleskill.edu).

We think this new program did a good job of allowing our students time to become acclimated to DisAbility Support Services in a friendly, small group atmosphere. We feel that the program also cut down on the anxiety that parents may have when sending their young adult off to college.

As we move into the semester, we anticipate that this presentation of support services will encourage our students to seek assistance earlier, reduce some of their fears and anxieties about coming to college, and better prepare them for their technology needs.

Recommended Reading

Burn This Book: PEN Writers Speak Out on the Power of the Word
edited by Toni Morrison

The Affinity Bridge: a Newbury & Hobbes Investigation
by George Mann

The Long Fall
by Walter Mosley

Bone Crossed
by Patricia Briggs

Cooperstown Confidential: Heroes, Rogues, and the Inside Story of the Baseball Hall of Fame
by Zev Chafets

Finger Lickin' Fifteen
by Janet Evanovich

In Defense of Thomas Jefferson: the Sally Hemings Sex Scandal
by William G. Hyland, Jr.

The Art of Making Money: the Story of a Master Counterfeiter
by Jason Kersten

The Geometry of Sisters
by Luanne Rice

Water for Elephants
by Sara Gruen

The Wisdom Trail: in the Footsteps of Remarkable Women
by Janet Lieberman & Julie Hungar

The Help
by Kathryn Stockett

Hope in a Jar
by Beth Harbison

The Dakota Cipher: an Ethan Gage Adventure
by William Dietrich

E-Resource Spotlight: Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection

One of the new resources recently added to the Library's growing set of online research tools is EBSCOhost's Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection. This is a comprehensive database offering full-text access to over 500 well-respected journals covering subject areas like anthropology, emotional and behavioral characteristics, psychiatry, observational and experimental methods, mental processes, and (of course) psychology.

The Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection includes journals such as *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, *Health & Social Work*, *Educational Psychology*, *Rural Sociology*, *Journal of General Psychology*, *Journal of Child & Family Studies*, *Social Development*, *Occupational Psychology*, and *American Journal of Family Therapy*.

Like all of the EBSCOhost databases, special features like emailing articles to yourself for later, citation assistance, and

SmartText searching are available. SmartText essentially does a weighted keyword search based on the entire abstract of whichever article you are currently looking at. This feature can be particularly useful for those times you need to "find more like this one." Additional features such as saving your screen layout preferences and creating email alerts and/or RSS feeds are available if you set up a free My EBSCOhost account



The Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection, along with all our other online research databases are available 24/7 from the Library's website (www.cobleskill.edu/library). Just choose the Electronic Databases section and go from there. Please let us know if you have any questions about this database, or any of our other online resources, at x5841 or Library@cobleskill.edu.

Weeding Project Update

The weeding project begun last fall has made good progress. There is long way yet to go but many books that were out-of-date or badly damaged, or simply not being used have been removed from the Library's collection.

A few people have expressed concern about this project, perhaps fearing that we might withdraw key research resources. Rest assured that we are doing everything we reasonably can to make sure that does not happen. Each batch of books being considered goes through a multi-step review procedure by the librarians before being shared with the campus in order to get further input. Except for a few cases where the items in question had deteriorated so much that they were beyond saving, every book that faculty members have asked us to keep has been kept.

Weeding is a difficult part of running any library. Librarians hate to remove books (or anything else) from the collection. That being said, just like a backyard flower garden, weeding is necessary in order to keep the Library's collection vibrant. Is there a possibility that something will get pulled that

Library Workshop Series

The popular Library Workshop Series (open to faculty, staff, and students alike) continues this fall! Workshops will be offered at various times, several days a week in an effort to accommodate everyone's busy schedules.

Session topics include: How to Connect, Access, Download, Print... Tips & Tricks for Technologies Found in the Library; Getting to Know Your College Library; What is All This Fuss About Scholarly Articles?; Media Literacy, or, What do You do with All of the Messages That are Bombarding You?; and several others.

Sessions should start in week two of the semester. Specific times and dates will be posted to Sharepoint as the schedule develops. Is there some subject you wish we'd do workshop on? Contact Fran Apollo (apollof@cobleskill.edu or x5858) and we'll see what we can do.

ANGEL: Transition, Future

Cobleskill's migration to the ANGEL course management suite last spring was very smooth and successful. We switched to ANGEL because it's less expensive than our old, basic version of Blackboard and it provides more teaching and learning tools such as online grading and assessment.

Instructional Technologies Coordinator Jiang Tan offers training workshops on using different ANGEL tools. The workshop schedule can be found at: www.cobleskill.edu/instructional/a_schedule.asp. There's also a self-paced tutorial available to get you started and serve as a quick reference guide— just click ANGEL Basics on the left-side menu. You can always contact Dr. Tan (tanj@cobleskill.edu or x5869) for individual assistance as well. She can even help faculty import their old Blackboard courses to ANGEL.

Looking ahead, it's useful to know that our contract with ANGEL doesn't end until 2012. So, even though Blackboard bought ANGEL this past May, the price and features will remain the same during our contract time. We hope that this news alleviates at least some of the concerns that folks had when the sale was announced.

shouldn't be? Yes, of course there is— but there are two key things that can significantly reduce that possibility.

First, make sure to use a proven statistical method to identify candidates for weeding. Check that off the list. There have been whole books written on the method we chose. We also reviewed it's successful implementation at other libraries before proceeding.

Second, open up the decision-making. Another check. Weeding is a collaborative process. It is most successful when we have input from the faculty and the campus at-large, in addition to that of the librarians. This is why we post lists of books being considered for weeding to Sharepoint, and why the librarians encourage their liaison departments to participate in the process. So far, several faculty members have indeed taken the time to share their expertise with us and we hope this kind of participation continues throughout the project.

If you want more details or just have questions, please contact April Davies (x5887 or daviesac@cobleskill.edu).

Using ANGEL to Build Study Skills, and More

The Center for Academic Support and Excellence (CASE) is offering an online study skills series via ANGEL. The series includes modules on time management, note taking strategies, and test taking strategies.

The purpose of the study skills modules is to offer students useful and concise information, self-assessments, videos, recommendations, forms, and resources to help them improve their study skills in preparation for college level learning. Specialized instructions and suggestions for students with disabilities are also offered where appropriate; however, these modules are designed to be useful and appropriate for all students.

CASE also offers a number of other ANGEL modules including several designed to help students improve their writing skills. Visit the Community Groups section of ANGEL to access these, and other, CASE modules. Click the Content tab once you get to the CASE area.

DSS Survey Results

As part of assessment efforts in DisAbility Support Services, staff distributed a survey to all DSS students in both the Spring and Fall semesters last year. The results indicated overwhelmingly that our students were very satisfied with their services, as well as the staff that was responsible for providing them. Services offered include technology training, academic and personal advisement, testing accommodations, electronically formatted texts, note-taking, and equipment loans. According to these surveys, the past year was an overwhelming success for DSS, and we hope to continue to expand our program and improve our services in the future.

Libraries remind us that truth isn't about who yells the loudest but who has the right information.

— Barack Obama, June 27, 2005

Fall Book Sale Begins Sept. 19th

The Library's big annual book sale officially starts Sept. 19th (Homecoming Weekend) and runs through the end of October. Which means it is time to give us your books! It's a great opportunity to clean out your bookshelves (and CD/DVD racks) and help us stock the sale carts. Simply drop items off at the Circulation Desk and we'll take it from there. Please try to get stuff to us by Sept. 15th so we

have time to sort through things. Homecoming is a little earlier than usual this year so our timeline is tight.

Book sale prices will be the same as always: \$1 for hardcovers, 50¢ for paperbacks. Multi-volume sets, non-book items, and other special items will have their prices posted. Please contact April Davies (daviesac@cobleskill.edu or x5887) if you have any questions.

Monday Night Science Study Groups

Study groups were held in CASE Monday nights last semester for the general biology and general chemistry courses. Facilitated by Laura Skinner, they provided an opportunity to review both lecture and laboratory content.



Since the study groups were fairly successful, CASE is planning on continuing them this fall. The general chemistry group for CHEM101 will be held on Monday evenings from 6-7pm. A second study group for BIOL158 will also be held on Mondays from 7-8pm.

ILL: Speedy Gets Speedier

ALIAS is coming to interlibrary loan! You won't see a difference in what you do but many of your article requests will be processed even faster than before.

When you request an article via ILL (interlibrary loan), the Article License Information Availability Service (ALIAS) will automatically check to see if we can get it from another IDS (Information Delivery Services) participating library. If we can, the system will forward the request to them without us having to do anything at all. No waiting for human

intervention means faster results for you!

On those rare occasions that you're manually entering an article request rather than letting one of the online databases do it for you, the ISSN, an 8-digit number that identifies a journal, is required for ALIAS to work. Example: *Journal of Banking & Finance* = ISSN 0378-4266. Manual requests can still go through without an ISSN but might not be as fast. If you have any questions about ILL services, please contact Katherine Brent (brentke@cobleskill.edu or x5851).

Staff News

Fran Apollo is serving as co-chair, along with David Campbell, for a portion of SUNY Cobleskill's upcoming Middle States accreditation review.

Lynn Abarno and Kyla Titus spent a couple of days in New Hampshire this August attending a "fabulous" workshop: ADHD & Executive Functioning: Supporting Coaching & Metacognition Approaches.

Katherine Brent attended the SUNY Librarians Association (SUNYLA) Annual Conference held in Syracuse in June. She then went to Oswego for the Information Delivery Services (IDS) conference in August. (BTW, Katherine is now on a regular term appointment. Welcome to the tenure track, Katherine!)

April Davies attended the SUNYLA Annual Conference

Library Hours for Fall 2009*

Mon.-Thurs.	8:00am-12:00am
Friday	8:00am-5:00pm
Saturday	10:00am-4:00pm
Sunday	2:00pm-12:00am

* **Library Café open until midnight—every night!**

Calendar

Aug. 31	First Day of Classes
Sept. 7	Labor Day
Sept. 18 - 20	Homecoming Weekend / Book Sale begins
Sept. 19	Talk Like a Pirate Day
Sept. 26 - Oct. 3	Banned Books Week
Oct. 2	Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday Groucho Marx's Birthday
Oct. 10 - 13	Fall Break
Oct. 16	Dictionary Day
Oct. 31	Halloween
Nov. 1	Daylight Saving Time ends
Nov. 3	Election Day
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day
Nov. 25 - 29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 1	World AIDS Awareness Day
Dec. 18	Last Day of Classes

along with Katherine. April also served as Presentations Co-Chair for the Conference Planning Committee.

Jen Morgenstein and Laura Skinner attended a StrengthsQuest Educator seminar in Ithaca, NY in July.

Elizabeth Orgeron has signed on as the Library's new Dean. Welcome, Beth!

Dr. Jiang Tan attended two conferences in May: the 2009 ANGEL User Conference in Chicago and SUNY's annual Conference on Instructional Technologies (CIT) held at SUNY Oswego.

Nancy Van Deusen officially retired in June after over 20 years with the Van Wagenen Library, the last several of those as Dean/Director. We wish her a low handicap on the golf course and lots of quality time with her grandkids!