



Construction Update: Good News & Not-So-Good News

Let's get the not-so-good news out of the way... the construction project is not over. The main things to be aware of this semester:

- We will be prepping for the relocation of the Reference and Periodicals sections of the main floor (including the computers). The start date for this is not set but we are hoping that the actual move will happen in December, once classes are over.
- Crews will be applying UV-filtering film to windows through September.
- Most staff offices have been relocated temporarily. Please call x5841 if you're looking for someone specific. We should all be back 'home' by the end of October.

Now onto the good news... the Library once again has fully functional air conditioning! The staff are very excited about that particular piece of news. Also, by the time this newsletter

is published, the new restrooms and new elevator should be done! The new restrooms are ADA-compliant and there are now men's and women's restrooms on all three floors. The new elevator is a good deal larger than the old one and has the advantage of being out in the public-area rather than hidden in the back.

We know construction is a pain. Just keep reminding yourself that it really is temporary and that it's giving us a more energy-efficient lighting system, improved wireless performance, a publicly-accessible elevator, convenient restrooms, a new conference room upstairs, and more.

As things progress here at the Library, we'll do our best to keep everyone up to date via Sharepoint, email, etc. Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions or concerns about construction activities, or anything else (x5841; Library@cobleskill.edu; or text to 66746, keyword asklib).

Making Art in the Library

Everyone knows that the Library is more than books and computers. It's also a good place to grab a nap. All kidding aside, the Library as a place serves many purposes. A few years ago, we thought people might enjoy seeing the 'lighter' side of the Library. Why should we hide the quirky sense of humor that both delights and plagues our colleagues? (C'mon, how many of you have seen Instruction Librarian Fran Apollo strolling around campus the first day of classes blowing soap bubbles?) And thus, even though we didn't quite realize it at the time, the Van Wagenen Library's Participatory Art program was about to be born.



It started simply enough with paper snowflakes early one winter. A stack of paper cut into different size rounds, some scissors, and a sign that said "Donate a Snowflake" were all it took.

As the snowflakes piled up, we taped them to the walls and counters. Seeing this, more people lingered by the front desk, scissors in hand, to add their own snowflake to the collection.

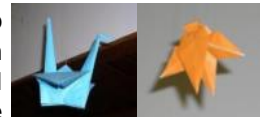


In spring 2009, an exhibit on fairies was enriched by fairy creatures fashioned by students (and faculty and anyone else who cared to participate). Every day found new creations perched on computers or dangling from ficus trees or hiding on bookshelves.

We all had so much fun with fairies that we started off spring 2010 with origami (a Japanese art form made by folding paper). We ran clear fishing line back and forth above the main entryway so that we could have all the frogs, cranes, butterflies, and various other paper creations dangling overhead for everyone to see and enjoy.

Along with origami, spring 2010 also brought our biggest

art project to date— graffiti! Due to construction, we found ourselves with large expanses of boring, bland temporary walls enclosing the construction areas. Why not paint them? We invited students to come cover our construction walls with graffiti, murals, or whatever came to mind. Thanks to generous donations of paint and gear from Noble Ace Hardware and Kelly Farm &



Garden, it cost us very little to put together. Best of all, the students did a great job and everyone had fun. The downside is that the walls are indeed temporary and will soon be taken down. However, if the upcoming phases of construction give us boring walls again— we'll just have to make them into art!

E-Resource Spotlight: PsycINFO

The Library has added a great new research tool to our collection of online databases— PsycINFO. PsycINFO provides deep coverage of the psychological literature from the 1800s to today. It contains bibliographic citations, abstracts, cited references, and descriptive information to help you find what you need in the behavioral and social sciences.

There are over 2,400 journals covered in the PsycINFO database. This includes top journals such as *American Psychologist*, *The American Journal of Psychology*, *Developmental Psychology*, *Experimental Psychology*, *Gender & Society*, *Infant and Child Development*, *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, *Journal of Applied Psychology*, *Psychological Review*, *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, and many more.

PsycINFO runs on ProQuest's CSA Illumina platform and is quite easy to use. For example, a basic search on

'attachment behavior' yields over 12,000 hits! Editing the search to narrow it down by adding 'and infants' drops it down under 2,800. You could shorten that list further by limiting the search by publication date or adding other terms. The advanced search page gives you even more options. PsycINFO also includes the usual assortment of tools to make your research life easier such as emailing citations, redoing searches using descriptors from relevant records, setting up alerts for new content, and more.

Like all of our research databases, PsycINFO is available 24/7 from the Electronic Databases section of the Library's website (www.cobleskill.edu/library/databases.asp). Please let us know if you have any questions about this database, or any of our other resources (x5841; Library@cobleskill.edu; or text to 66746, keyword *asklib*).



DSS Numbers Continue to Climb

Disability Support Services (DSS) experienced a substantial increase in the number of students it served during the 2009/2010 academic year. DSS is now servicing close to 12% of the total population, whereas in previous years we served approximately 9-10% of total enrollment. 313 students registered with DSS in the fall 2009 semester and 261 students were registered for the spring 2010, an increase of approximately 15% and 13%, respectively.

There was particularly large growth in the number of students with disabilities needing testing accommodations. This resulted in an increase in testing activity of 54% over the previous year. For

2009/2010, a grand total of 1,039 tests were administered by DSS. 572 tests were proctored in the fall (up by about 43%) and another 467 in the spring semester (up 69%).

The increase in usage combined with a pilot program to provide extra assistance to students who were either on probation or suspended-retained, kept DSS staff rather busy last year. The pilot program took about 20 students who were in this category and set up weekly appointments with DSS staff. We saw significant improvement in the majority of the students that participated. We feel that the initiative was successful and hope to continue it in the coming year.

Computer Skills Workshops @ CASE

The Center for Academic Support & Excellence (CASE) will be hosting a series of computer skills workshops this fall. The workshops will be held every Monday at 12 noon Sept. 13 through Dec. 13 and will be facilitated by Dr. Jiang Tan.



The goal of the workshop series is to provide support for students with computer skills needed for class work. The CASE computer workshop series is a set time to learn the navigation tools necessary for computer-assisted projects embedded in so many classes.

While certain topics will be covered each week, there will be ample time to address individual needs. Following are a sampling of the techniques that will be addressed.

- Word 2007: Create a simple document using MS Word 2007, save a document, use some automatic text features for entering text, edit a document, and access online help.
- Excel 2007: Format an Excel worksheet, enter and format cell contents, navigate within and between worksheets, and use simple functions to do calculations.
- Power Point 2007: Create a basic presentation, customize your PPT presentation, format slides and text, work with slideshow contents, format text, and print out slides.

The workshop series is not just for students! Faculty and staff members are also encouraged to attend. So, beginning Sept. 13, remember to save Monday at Noon for these valuable computer skills workshops.

Recommended Reading

- Her Mother's Hope*
by Francine Rivers
- Known to Evil*
by Walter Mosley
- Blood Secrets: Chronicles of a Crime Scene Reconstructionist*
by Rod Englert
- Song of the Dragon*
by Tracy Hickman
- Fragile*
by Lisa Unger
- Greetings From Afghanistan, Send More Ammo*
by Benjamin Tupper
- As Husbands Go*
by Susan Isaacs
- In Harm's Way*
by Ridley Pearson
- Somewhere Inside: One Sister's Captivity in North Korea & the Other's Fight to Bring Her Home*
by Laura Ling & Lisa Ling
- Shameless*
by Karen Robards
- The Third Rail*
by Michael Harvey
- Black Magic Sanction*
by Kim Harrison
- Shocking Cases from Dr. Henry Lee's Forensic Files...*
by Henry C. Lee & Jerry Labriola

Our whole American way of life is a great war of ideas, and librarians are the arms dealers selling weapons to both sides.

— James Quinn

Karaoke? In the Library?!?

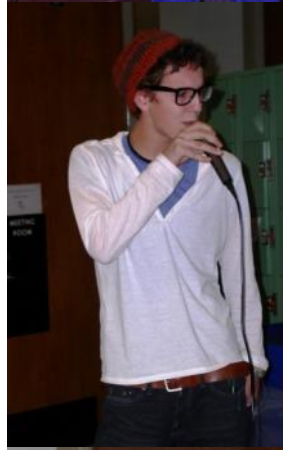
Yes, the rumors you heard were true. This past spring saw the debut of Karaoke Amnesty Day at Van Wagenen Library. The deal was simple— sing one song and we wipe out your overdue fines. Easy peasy.

Once we convinced them that we were serious, we wound



up with several students (and some faculty) singing away their fines on a sunny afternoon in May. A few people even came back and sang a couple more numbers. We're sure it was just because they were having fun, not because they wanted to avoid studying for finals.

The Library offered another (quieter) amnesty day earlier in the spring. Patrons could trade one non-perishable food item for \$5 off their overdue fines. We took in a nice variety of items for the local food bank. We'll probably do an amnesty day or two during the fall semester as well. Will there be karaoke? Stay tuned and find out.



Community of Scholars

The Community of Scholars lecture series enters its second year with a full calendar of presentations by our College faculty. The goal of the series is to give faculty the opportunity to share their research with colleagues across the curriculum. In presenting at the Community of Scholars, faculty create an atmosphere of critical evaluation among peers, sharing already completed research, work in process, or innovative classroom assignments. The lecture series is sponsored through a partnership of the Van Wagenen Library, Instructional Technologies Center, and Academic Affairs.

Last year's presenters: Professors Joe Sprague, Amy Corbett, Jim Fort, and Kathleen Puciato, Gail Wentworth, and Early Childhood Honors student, Rachel Harbison; presented on an array of topics from new ways to utilize the assessment



question bank in ANGEL, differences in Japanese and American manufacturing/business practices, effective research-intensive psychology assignments, to child welfare locally and globally.

The fall lineup is equally diverse and interesting! Professors Douglas MacLeod, David Tisch, Sal Rivera, Margrethe Lauber, and Karl Schwarzenegger are the scheduled speakers. Not all of the presentation titles are finalized, but here are two that will get faculty excited to attend: Prof. Tisch will lecture on "Comparing the Carbon Footprint of Grass vs. Grain Fed Beef," and Prof. MacLeod will report on innovative teaching techniques with "Carlin in Composition: the Use of Standup Comedy in the English Composition Classroom."

The location is still pending, but mark your calendars for this semester's Community of Scholars dates: Sept. 10, Oct. 15, Nov. 12, Dec. 3, and Dec. 17.

From the Dean



As we adapt to all the hammering and sawing, we are keeping a vision of a newly renovated Library as the light at the end of our construction tunnel!

We are in the midst of a large scale Library building renovation— adding a new elevator, ADA accessible restrooms, new carpet (we will save and display a square of the old orange carpet for posterity!), and remodeling our main public services area.

The librarians have been brainstorming ways in which to continue to offer excellent research services despite the construction. One of the upshots of necessitating the retooling of services

during the construction has been our goal of creatively thinking about innovative service models for the future. We will base our models on continued curricular support while also providing an innovative space for active learning.

This past semester we hosted numerous creative art projects and will continue to sponsor art installations within the Library. We have met with the Schoharie Arts Council and look forward to becoming a hub of arts and creativity. We welcome any ideas you may have for art and service partnerships.

While the fillings in our teeth are a bit looser from the jack hammers, we are still smiling and look forward to a great semester!

Staff News

Lynn Abarno and Kyla Titus attended a county-wide transitioning fair for students and people with disabilities, at the Schoharie County Building on April 27.

Fran Apollo has joined the Capital District Library Council's new Reference Interest Group and she will be teaching two sections of the new freshman seminar (FFCS). Fran continues to work with Dave Campbell and others on Cobleskill's Middle States re-accreditation.

Jeffrey Barnes is replacing Brendan Aucoin as Circulation Clerk. Jeff is also an adjunct in the Humanities department.

Katherine Brent presented a poster session entitled "Going Stickerless" (on making Cobleskill's Interlibrary Loan operation 'greener' by creating reusable book bands) at the

SUNY Librarians Association's 42nd annual conference in June.

This past spring, April Davies was elected 1st VP/President-Elect of the SUNY Librarians Association. In August, she attended Harvard University's Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians.

Jean Hull, an ESL instructor will be at CASE 6 hours per week to meet with international students and any student who has English as a second language. She will be devoting time to the development and/or improvement of writing and reading skills.

Margaret Liberti, a Coby grad, will be joining the CASE staff as a Professional Tutor in the Sciences, Math, and English.

Library Hours for Fall 2010*

Mon.-Thurs.	7:00am-12:00am
Friday	7:00am-5:00pm
Saturday	10:00am-4:00pm
Sunday	2:00pm-12:00am

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

Calendar

Aug. 30	First Day of Classes
Sept. 6	Labor Day
Sept. 8	International Literacy Day
Sept. 19	Talk Like a Pirate Day
Oct. 9-12	Fall Break
Oct. 18	National Chocolate Cupcake Day
Oct. 23-24	Homecoming Weekend
Oct. 31	Halloween
Nov. 2	Election Day
Nov. 7	Daylight Saving Time ends
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day
Nov. 24-28	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 1	World AIDS Day
Dec. 5	Walt Disney's Birthday
Dec. 15	Cat Herders Day
Dec. 17	Last Day of Classes