



CASE Relocates

Due to a problem with the heating, ventilation, and cooling (HVAC) system on the lower level of the Library, that floor had to be closed and the Center for Academic Support and Excellence (CASE) was temporarily moved to the top floor of the building in October—where they will unfortunately remain for another year or so (more on that later). This move has caused some inconveniences to our students, especially in terms of computer access, testing accommodations, and quiet study. Also, the staff had to adapt to a space that was not designed for the service oriented programming provided by CASE. Despite all of this, the CASE staff including the peer tutors and mentors, has continued to offer their services without interruption.

So, what went wrong with the HVAC system? Well, it turns out that the underground pipes were not properly insulated back when the building was constructed and, since the pipes were made of galvanized steel, they rusted away sometime in the last 30-odd years. We discovered this when particulate matter began to spew from the vents. Luckily, tests by two different labs confirmed that there was nothing toxic in the air or the particulate matter. Not so luckily, the HVAC system

must be replaced and the lower level will have no heat, no air conditioning, and pretty much no airflow at all (since the windows don't open) until that is done.

Complicating the timeline for this effort is the fact that the Library is due for some much needed renovation, including a new public area elevator (the current one is too small and not readily accessible). The renovation work on the lower level will be done at the same time as the HVAC project. As much as we'd all like to just get the HVAC fixed quickly so things can get back to normal, doing the projects this way is the logical approach. CASE operations won't have to be disrupted again for renovations and we will save time and money by not having to repeat and/or undo earlier work.

We anticipate that CASE will be able to return to the improved lower level in January 2010. In the meantime, we've moved several computers from the "forbidden zone" to the main floor of the Library and have re-arranged a bit upstairs to make this situation as workable as possible. We apologize for the inconvenience we know this causes for everyone and ask that you bear with us. The place will be better than ever at the end of all this. Promise.

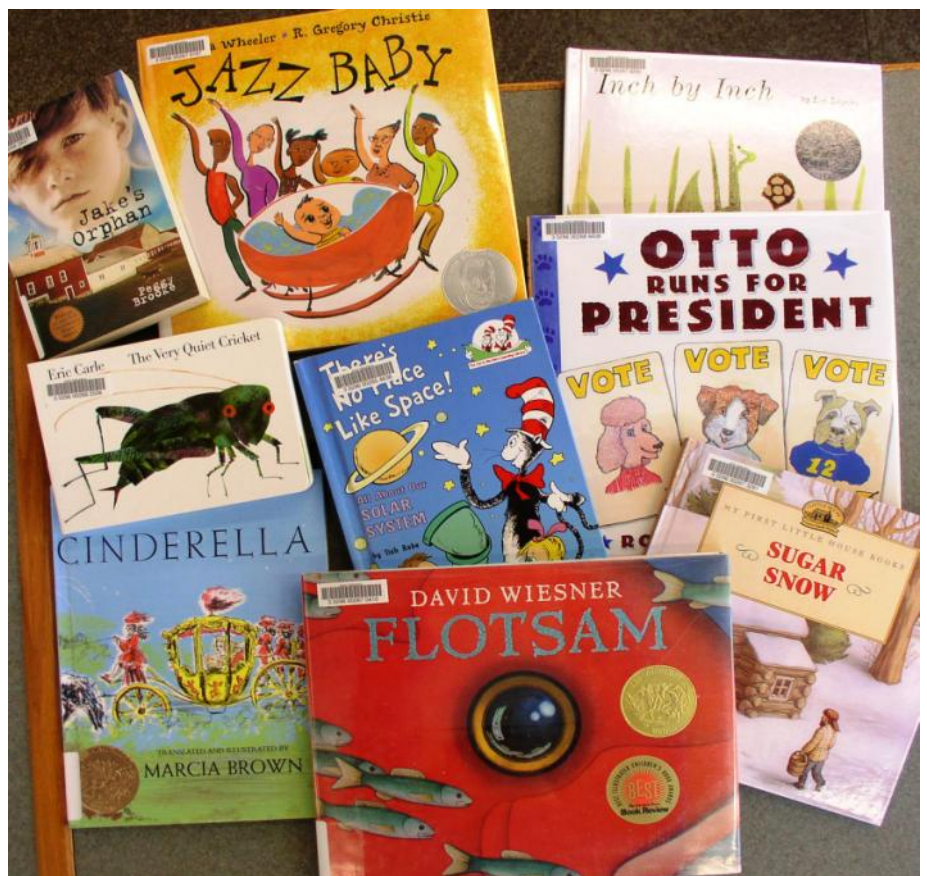
Children's Collection Relocating, Too

The demise of the lower level's HVAC system didn't just disrupt the operations of CASE, it also made the Children's Collection inaccessible. We've been retrieving materials for people as needed but this is clearly not a good long-term solution as this valuable resource for both the Early Childhood program and for the larger Cobleskill community needs to be readily accessible. To that end, we've decided to move the Children's Collection to the upper level of the Library as soon as possible. Our hope is that "as soon as possible" will be in the first couple months of the semester.

Fortunately, the large weeding project begun this fall (see Weeding Update p. 2) should make that doable. As books are removed, we will shift those that remain so as to empty the shelves currently in the area adjacent to the TV Studio. We can then take out those shelves and move the Children's Collection up to that space. The move has some benefits. The proximity to the TV Studio classroom should be useful for the Children's Literature classes in particular.

We don't know if this will be the permanent home of the Children's Collection but, since building renovations and work on the new public elevator will continue through all three floors for the

next couple of years... this location should keep it accessible and away from the main work zone for the duration.



Peer Mentors for DSS Students

Peer mentors are a mandatory part of the MERITS program. This year, as a pilot effort, mentoring was also offered to DisAbility Support Services (DSS) students. Twenty students, at the time of admission, chose to have a peer mentor. The program was a success— 95% of those who requested a mentor kept in contact and saw their mentor on a weekly basis.

The experience had a positive impact on the students. Comments such as, “She

is someone who wants to make sure I am doing well and getting my work done on time” and “My mentor was there to watch my back and make sure I finished everything I said I was going to finish” were not unusual.

Ideally, peer mentoring should be available to all incoming freshmen. The CASE staff hopes, at the very least, to extend this valuable resource to first semester DSS students again in the Fall 2009 semester.

Weeding Update

As we told you last semester, in order to keep the Library’s collection vibrant it is necessary to periodically remove (or, weed) materials that are out-of-date or falling apart. Hence the large weeding project we started in this past fall.

The project is well underway with several hundred items weeded already. (Only a few thousand to go!) We’re very pleased that several faculty members have weighed in on particular books since the project began. With their in-depth knowledge of their particular subject areas, faculty input is invaluable to the weeding process.

We will continue to post lists of books

being considered for weeding to Sharepoint and Library liaisons will make sure that their departments are kept apprised of our progress. We hope faculty will continue to give us feedback as the project continues.

Several people have asked what we’re going to do with the books we remove from the collection. We will be following standard SUNY procedures for disposing of materials.

If you’re wondering how we decide which books should maybe be weeded or want more details about the weeding process, please contact April Davies (daviesac@cobleskill.edu or x5887).

Library Website Revamp

You’ve probably noticed some changes to the Library’s website (www.cobleskill.edu/library). As part of the College’s efforts to have all the Cobleskill pages look the same, Systems Librarian Peter Barvoets spent several months moving and reorganizing all of our web content. The menu on the left side of the page and the “breadcrumbs” near the top appear on every page and allow quick access to the entire contents of the website. All areas are listed in the left-hand menu including the Center for Academic Support and Excellence (CASE), DisAbility Support Services, and the

Tutors Invade Cobleskill

SUNY Cobleskill hosted The 3rd annual TACT conference (Training Association for College Tutors) in October. This year’s theme was “Harvesting Your Strengths.” The day



began with a keynote address by Tammy Rehberg, former Assistant Residential Life Director here at Cobleskill. Her presentation focused on Strengths Quest, a program grounded in the study of

Writing Center. The “Library News” area of the main page provides information about new databases, activities, etc.

The new website went live in early January and we think it turned out pretty well. If you notice any problems or broken links, or can’t find something you remember from the old pages, contact Peter Barvoets (barvoepd@cobleskill.edu or x5894). As always, all of the librarians are available to help if you need any assistance. Many thanks to Kirpaul Babar for all his assistance with the nearly 100 pages that make up the Van Wagenen Library website.

positive psychology. All attendees had taken the Strengths Quest survey which determined their personal strengths prior to the conference. The keynote program was then dedicated to the principal that by gaining an awareness of our personal strengths, one will become a better tutor to the students with whom they work.

Our campus didn’t merely host the conference, Cobleskill tutors developed and presented three workshops: “Simply Communicating” by Rachel Walsh; “Tutoring Tools for Success” by Heather Rodd and David Brunjes; and “How to Study Smarter” by Patricia Coombs and Ben Fox.

Nine schools attended TACT, including Herkimer, Fulton-Montgomery, Columbia-Greene, Broome, Hudson Valley, Mohawk Valley, Morrisville, and Tompkins-Cortland.

Recommended Reading

- Rough Justice*
by Jack Higgins
- Becoming Enlightened*
by His Holiness the Dalai Lama
- Cancer is a Bitch: or, I'd Rather be Having a Midlife Crisis*
by Gail Konop Baker
- Plum Spooky*
by Janet Evanovich
- The Anatomy of Deception*
by Lawrence Goldstone
- Sashenka*
by Simon Montefiore
- Against Medical Advice: a True Story*
by James Patterson & Hal Friedman
- The Fire Kimono*
by Laura Joh Rowland
- Street Gang: the Complete History of Sesame Street*
by Michael Davis
- Sing Them Home*
by Stephanie Kallos
- Foundation*
by Mercedes Lackey
- Dewey: the Small-town Library Cat Who Touched the World*
by Vicki Myron

ANGEL In, Blackboard Out

ANGEL is now Cobleskill's official course management suite, replacing the Blackboard system. For those who haven't yet used ANGEL—try it. It's easy to use and offers many improvements compared to Blackboard. Also, and of some importance, migrating old Blackboard courses to ANGEL is both easy and fast.

One of the biggest advantages of ANGEL over Blackboard is that it imports courses and users directly from Banner and the import is updated frequently. Therefore, instructors don't have to turn in requests for courses and students don't need to enroll in ANGEL classes themselves. Other helpful features include online drop boxes for individual assignments and improved email, test manager, and grade book tools.

Please note that Blackboard will keep running through March, when our contract with them ends. Some instructors

Library Workshop Series

Our popular Library Workshop Series continues this semester. Workshops will be offered at various times in an effort to accommodate everyone's busy schedules. There will also be a couple of special Wednesday night sessions. Check the schedule on Sharepoint for more information.

This semester's sessions include: How to connect, access, download, unjam, print... Tips and tricks for technologies found in the Library; Internet Privacy – OR – Don't Let It All Hang Out: a discussion of the concerns about the long life of electronic communications (email, social networks); What is All This Fuss About Scholarly Articles?; and many more.

Is there some topic you wish we'd have a workshop on? Contact Fran Apollo (apollof@cobleskill.edu or x5858) and we'll see what we can do.

E-Resource Spotlight: ScienceDirect

ScienceDirect is a valuable part of the Library's suite of online resources. It contains the full-text of a huge number of resources in the science, technology, and medical fields. ScienceDirect includes journals such as *Journal of Animal Behavior*, *Tourism Management*, *Aquaculture*, *Technology in Society*, *Cognitive Psychology*, and *Veterinary Parasitology*.

There are also some special features available to help you keep abreast of current research in your field, should you choose to set up a free personal login. Among other things, you can save your searches, create a favorite journal list, and (my personal favorites) set up search and citation alerts. A search alert tells you when new material relevant to a particular search is added to the database. So, if you did a search to find everything ScienceDirect has on tilapia parasites, you could save that search and set up an alert to notify you when new articles on tilapia parasites come in. Similarly, citation alerts let you know when a specific article you're interested in (perhaps because you wrote it) is cited by new articles in the database.

ScienceDirect and dozens of 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 ScienceDirect or any of our other online resources.

of short-term courses are choosing to stick with Blackboard as their courses end before March 31. If you want to keep a record of your Blackboard courses, you will need to archive them in a folder on your own computer (or mdrive, flash drive, etc.) before March 31.

Instructional Technologies Coordinator Jiang Tan offers a flexible schedule of training on how to transition from Blackboard to ANGEL and how to design ANGEL courses. Visit www.cobleskill.edu/instructional/a_schedule.asp to see the current training schedule. This website also contains guides created by Dr. Tan covering the basics of ANGEL, importing Blackboard courses to ANGEL, archiving Blackboard courses, and more. To schedule a training or if you have any questions about ANGEL, please contact Jiang Tan (tanj@cobleskill.edu or x5869).

Coordinated Collection Development = \$\$

The Library is pleased to report that we have again received funding through the New York State Library's Coordinated Collection Development Aid (CCDA) program. The CCDA program promotes regional coordination of collection development in academic libraries. Each participating library has subject areas of focus and uses these funds to build robust collections in said subjects. Those collections are then shared statewide for the benefit of all. Here at SUNY Cobleskill, the CCDA funds are targeted towards Early Childhood Education and Agriculture & Natural Resources.

While getting this grant money right now is happy news, we must warn you that Cobleskill probably won't get CCDA money next year. One of the program requirements is "maintenance of effort." This means that the Library's budget must be maintained at 95% of the average of the previous two years' budgets in order to remain eligible for CCDA funding. The Library's budget was cut by 28% this year; without a budget increase next year, we will drop below the eligibility level.

The Library will be putting these funds to work as soon as possible. Contact your department's Library liaison if you have any questions or suggestions for purchases.

MERITS Makes a Difference

The MERITS program is in its sixth year of helping students who do not meet the requirements for admission to SUNY Cobleskill successfully make the transition from high school to their first year of college. There were 56 new MERITS students in Fall 2008. 37 (66%) of them are returning for Spring 2009, 72% of whom had a GPA of 2.0 or higher.

MERITS students are required to complete eight study hours per week and to meet regularly with their peer mentors. Tutoring and other CASE services are key pieces of the MERITS program. To learn more about MERITS, contact Marilyn Barnes (x5876 or barnesmb@cobleskill.edu).

*What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.*
—from "Leisure," by W.H. Davies

Everybody's Favorite Math Tutor...

Who can tutor six different students in four different math classes at the same time? Who can help make calculus both understandable and fun? That's right, it's Ralph Falco! He probably won't tell you so himself, but Ralph is one great math tutor and we are lucky to have him! This writer has overheard students singing his praises more than once and urging their friends having math troubles to go to him (specifically) for help.

So, who is Ralph Falco? Ralph was born and raised in Amsterdam, NY and has lived here in Cobleskill for the last nine years. He completed his baccalaureate degree in Mathematics and Chemistry at SUNY Potsdam and is currently involved in a graduate program at SUNY Oneonta. Ralph's teaching experiences include: SUNY Albany and The Albany College of Pharmacy, as well as several public school districts.

Lest you think that Ralph is "all math, all the time," he also enjoys fly-fishing, hiking, and camping—though his very



favorite activity is golf. Most of his warm weather free time is spent at the Cobleskill Golf & Country Club where he serves on the Board of Directors. Ralph and his wife Andrea have a beautiful one-year old daughter Annika. (The 2026 U.S. Women's Open Golf Champion!)

Counting Your Opinions

The Van Wagenen Library will be introducing a new ongoing online survey from Counting Opinions this semester. This will enable us to track and record patron satisfaction with Library services on a continual basis. The information gathered will provide us with information to assist in prioritizing and improving our quality of service. The survey is also designed to



compare our results with other academic libraries across the country.

The survey will be randomly "offered" as users enter the Library's website (www.cobleskill.edu/library). We expect to introduce this new survey in February. If you visit our site and are prompted to take the survey, please take the 5 minutes or so to let us know how we are doing. We look forward to your input and will listen to what you have to say.

Staff News

Fran Apollo recently reviewed several books for *Multicultural Review*, including *To Change the World: My Years in Cuba* by Margaret Randall and *First Stop in the New World: Mexico City, Capital of the 21st Century* by David Lida. In her spare time, she attended webinars on Participatory Librarianship and other topics.

Katherine Brent attended the New York Resource Sharing Summit in Saratoga Springs back in October and the "Library Instruction: Teaching Tips from the Trenches" workshop in Geneseo in January.

April Davies has received continuing appointment. Let's hear it for tenure! April also recently completed a 4-week course on Electronic Resources Acquisitions offered by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services.

Carrie Fishner will be joining the CASE staff as a DSS Assistant. Carrie worked with the MERITS program a few

years ago and is also a Residence Hall Director.

Michele Moore-Strobeck has left SUNY Cobleskill for a position as Schoharie County's Ag Marketing Director. We wish Michelle great success in her new endeavor. And with her new baby!

Laura Skinner recently joined the CASE staff as a MERITS/Retention Program Assistant. Laura will also be serving as an adjunct Biology instructor this semester.

Emilie Tisch will be joining the CASE staff for the spring semester as a Research Aide. She will be working on getting the new tutoring by appointment program off the ground and serving as a tutor for several different classes.

Nancy Van Deusen will be semi-retired this semester, working 1-day per week. Most of her duties have been split amongst the rest of the Library faculty until a search for a permanent successor can be completed.

Library Hours for Spring 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

Jan. 26	First Day of Classes Chinese New Year
Jan. 28	National Kazoo Day
Feb. 12	Lincoln's Birthday
Feb. 15	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday Galileo's Birthday
Feb. 16	Washington's Birthday (observed)
March 2	Dr. Seuss's Birthday
March 7-15	Spring Break
March 8	Daylight Saving Time begins
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
April 12	Easter
April 15	Tax Day
April 22	Earth Day
May 10	Mother's Day
May 22	Commencement