



## Construction... the End is Nigh

If everything proceeds on schedule, construction here in the Library should be complete before the end of fall semester. Work is being scaled back considerably for this spring (a welcome break for our eardrums) while we prepare for a full-on construction invasion over the summer.

The construction crews got a lot done during the fall semester and winter break. They finished up new restrooms and a new public elevator, applied UV-filtering film to the windows, built a new conference/classroom on the top floor, expanded the Instructional Technology Center's training space, installed new lights and carpet in various areas, rewired offices, upgraded the fire alarm system, did a bunch of painting (picture at right, view full-size: [www.flickr.com/photos/lookseeseen/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/lookseeseen/)), and more.

As mentioned earlier, spring semester will be the calm before the storm. In the first 2-3 weeks we'll be moving the Children's Collection from the area directly above the main entrance to a more spacious home over by the study rooms. The crews will probably have a few things begun during break to finish up as well. After that, construction activity will stop for a few months.

**What's coming this summer? Basically, whatever hasn't been done will be done.** The main things are remodeling the front desk area and the public section of the main floor, completely redoing the lobby and main entrance, and finishing off the rest of the top floor. These activities will require us to move 80,000+ books, magazine, videos, etc. out of the building. **Yes, that's about 99% of our physical collection. We don't yet know whether those materials will be accessible since it's too soon to know where they're going to be stored. So, if you haven't guessed it yet, all of this means that the Library will probably be closed to the public for the whole summer, though we should be able to accommodate appointments as needed.**

**It's strange to think that, for many of our students, the Library has *always* been under construction.** It seems that way to us too some days! We do try to focus on the positive but, honestly, knowing that these difficulties are a necessary part of creating a more user-friendly and attractive Library building can be cold comfort when someone is using a hammer drill in the room next door. All that being said, construction is almost done and the place is looking so much better already!

**As always, we'll do our best to let everyone know what's happening here in the Library via Sharepoint, email, etc. Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions or concerns about construction activities, or anything else for that matter (x5841; [Library@cobleskill.edu](mailto:Library@cobleskill.edu); or text to 66746, keyword *asklib*).**



## Online Research Tool: RefWorks

The Library introduced a new online research tool during the fall semester— RefWorks. As anyone who has written a paper longer than five pages knows, keeping track of your references can be difficult. RefWorks is designed to make that job easier. It is a web-based bibliography and database manager that helps you create your own personal database by importing references from text files or online databases and other various sources. It lets you store reference information that you can then use to create a paper, article, book, etc. RefWorks can even help with the proper formatting of citations.

**Getting started is easy. First, visit the Library's website and set up your RefWorks account** ([www.cobleskill.edu/library/refworks\\_account.asp](http://www.cobleskill.edu/library/refworks_account.asp)). You can then spend some time building an organizational structure for your information (helpful for larger, more complex projects) or you can just start using the darn thing.

## Record Numbers for CASE in Fall

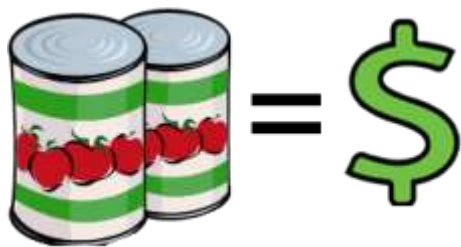
On Nov. 17, 2010, the Center for Academic Support and Excellence (CASE) had their 1,000th individual student of the semester sign in. A truly remarkable record! Freshman math major Christina McKay certainly was surprised to find herself the center of attention when she logged in to AccuTrack that day. There was a brief celebration and Christina was presented with a gift certificate to the College Store.



As of the beginning of the last week of classes, the Center was utilized by 1,105 students with 16,003 hours logged CASE

## Fine Amnesty Days

The Library held its second Amnesty Food Drive in November, just in time for Thanksgiving. People could donate non-perishable food items and get a chunk of their overdue fines wiped out for each



services. For those interested in the impact of the FFCS classes, of those 1,105 students, over 500 were freshmen. Clearly, when students know that help is readily available to them and are encouraged to get that help sooner rather than later, usage rises.

While the push in FFCS has contributed to **CASE's great numbers, there's more going on.** Frankly, the word is out about CASE, and DSS and the Writing Center. More (non-FFCS) faculty are sending **students to CASE's tutors, workshops, and programs.** More importantly, students are telling *each other* to go to CASE. Recommending something to your friends— is there any higher praise we could ask for?

item they brought in. We then passed the donations on to local charities.

**While a food drive isn't quite as entertaining as the Karaoke Amnesty we did last spring** (see Fall 2010 newsletter for more ([www.cobleskill.edu/library/news.asp](http://www.cobleskill.edu/library/news.asp)), we ended up waiving \$235 in overdue fines which equals a bunch of food for struggling families here in Schoharie County.

We hope to do another food drive in the **spring. We may even repeat last year's** karaoke event as well.

Most of our electronic databases such as ACM



Digital Library, MasterFile, Project MUSE, ScienceDirect, and **others can interface directly with RefWorks. On the Library's database pages** ([www.cobleskill.edu/library/databases.asp](http://www.cobleskill.edu/library/databases.asp)), where you see the small RefWorks icon, click to see how to use RefWorks with that particular research database. If it **doesn't have the little logo, you can still use RefWorks but you'll need to copy/paste the information into the system.** Tutorials and guides designed to help you get the most out of RefWorks are available on our website anytime you want to learn more ([www.cobleskill.edu/library/refworks1.asp](http://www.cobleskill.edu/library/refworks1.asp)). As always, please let us know if you have any questions or problems (x5841; [Library@cobleskill.edu](mailto:Library@cobleskill.edu); or text to 66746, keyword *asklib*).

## Recommended Reading

*Left Neglected*  
by Lisa Genova

*I Shall Wear Midnight*  
by Terry Pratchett

*How I Killed Pluto and Why it Had it Coming*  
by Mike Brown

*Wicked Appetite*  
by Janet Evanovich

*Djibouti*  
by Elmore Leonard

*Secrets to the Grave*  
by Tami Hoag

*Conversations with Myself*  
by Nelson Mandela

*Intrigues*  
by Mercedes Lackey

*Luka and the Fire of Life*  
by Salman Rushdie

*The Lost Gate*  
by Orson Scott Card

*Port Mortuary*  
by Patricia Cornwell

**Obama's Wars**  
by Bob Woodward

*What the Night Knows*  
by Dean Koontz

*Call Me Irresistible*  
by Susan Elizabeth Phillips

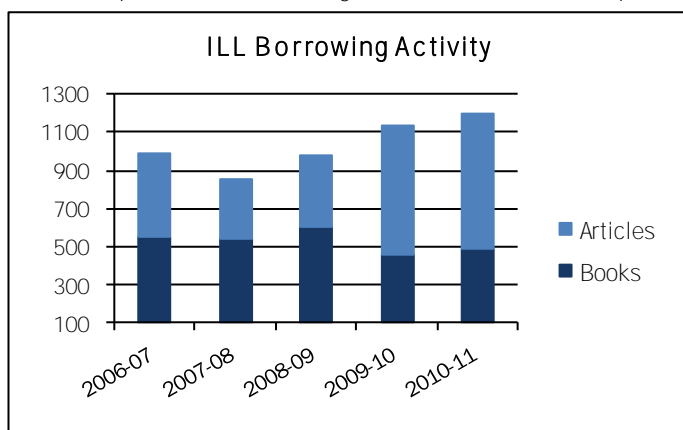
*Cesar's Rules: Your Way to Train a Well-Behaved Dog*  
by Cesar Milan & Melissa Jo Peltier

*The library is not a shrine for the worship of books. It is not a temple where literary incense must be burned or where one's devotion to the bound book is expressed in ritual. A library, to modify the famous metaphor of Socrates, should be the delivery room for the birth of ideas— a place where history comes to life. —Norman Cousins*

## Library Usage Strong Despite Construction

It's true that numbers tell a story but sometimes that story is confusing. Take various Library usage statistics for example. One set of numbers can be up, another down, and still another can be holding steady. In order to get a clearer picture of what is actually going on, you have to look at things from several angles. Overall, usage of Library services and spaces remains strong.

We're pleased to report that use of Interlibrary Loan (ILL) is up. ILL allows us to offer users a much larger selection of resources than we could ever hold here at SUNY Cobleskill and we like to see that people are taking advantage of the service. Total borrowing requests are up 17% since 2006-07, with an average fill rate (successful requests) of 81%. Lending requests (from other libraries) are up by 32% over the same period. The following chart illustrates one aspect of



ILL usage by looking at successfully filled borrowing requests for books and articles. Based on the numbers from fall

## Saperstein Speaks On Classroom Bullying

Jesse Saperstein visited SUNY Cobleskill on January 19th to speak to faculty and staff. His entertaining and informative presentation, "A Prism of Understanding," addressed the many facets of bullying. Later that same day he gave a similar presentation for teachers, parents, and the community.

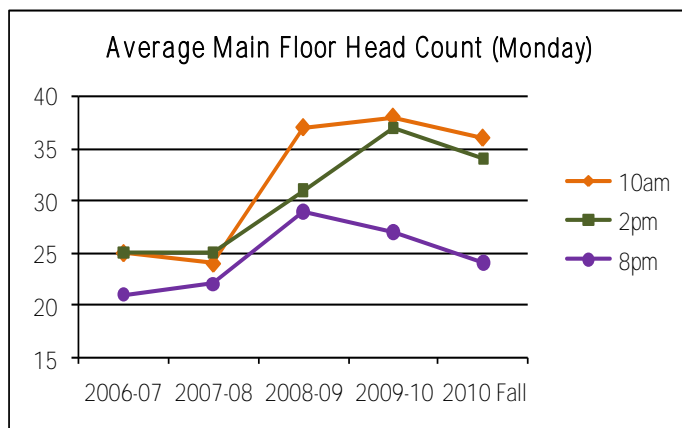
Mr. Saperstein is the author of *Atypical: Life with Asperger's in 20 1/3 Chapters*. He wrote the book in the hopes that it would be a catalyst for change in societal consciousness regarding autism. He is a graduate of Hobart & William Smith Colleges and, in addition to his work on the topic of autism-spectrum disorders, he is also a public advocate regarding the potentially deadly consequences of cyber bullying.



This program was brought to you by the Perkins Grant, disAbility Support Services, CASE, and the VP for Academic Affairs.

semester we'll probably be up slightly compared to 2009-10.

As shown in the following chart, our head counts on the main floor exhibit a slight dip but it's generally insignificant—going from 37 to 34 people is not a big deal. The dip is



probably due to the reopening of the lower level. With the computers and study areas of CASE available, some of the main floor overflow can move down there. The Monday 8pm slot has dropped two years in a row which struck us as odd but, when you look at the 8pm slot across all days, it's actually up slightly compared to last year. Again, looking from multiple angles makes a difference.

When you add numbers like these to the counts of people passing through our doors (up 7% from last year at this time) and the booming business down in CASE (see p.2 for more), it becomes clear that more people are using the Library even with the noise and mess of construction. Imagine what will happen when the construction is finally finished!

## Measuring Service Quality

The Library plans to administer the LibQUAL+ survey this spring. LibQUAL+ is a nationally-normed survey designed to assess users' perceptions regarding library service quality. For those of you who have been around SUNY Cobleskill for awhile, this survey may sound familiar as we ran it in 2007 and in 2003. Repeating the survey every few years helps us assess the impact of our efforts and aids in keeping track of users' changing priorities.



We'll be offering various prizes to encourage participation and the survey will be open to all SUNY Cobleskill students, faculty, and staff. Announcements will be going out (email, Sharepoint, the Library's website, etc.) when the survey goes 'live' later this semester. Stay tuned.

## CASE Workshops

The Center for Academic Support & Excellence (CASE) is planning an expanded workshop series for the spring 2011 semester.

In addition to current topics—time management, textbook reading, writing college essays, overcoming math anxiety, computer skills, etc.—CASE staff is exploring other topics such as self-advocacy, test anxiety, motivation, and Premier Literacy Tools. CASE welcomes suggestions on other topics students or faculty would like to see offered.



## Community of Scholars in Full Swing

From Latin American policy development to the use of humor to analyze language in freshman composition, the Community of Scholars Lecture Series enjoyed terrific success last semester!

The lineup for spring semester has yet to be finalized, but we do know for sure that Prof. David Tisch will be one of our **very first speakers**. **Dave's presentation, "Comparing the Carbon Footprint of Grass vs. Grain Fed Beef," looks to be both interesting and educational.** Also, we are hoping to convince



### From the Dean

When signing documents, writing 2011 seemed a much easier adjustment to me than last year. Perhaps this is due to the obvious and energizing accomplishments of our building construction: bit by bit the orange carpet has been replaced; our offices were redone and look great; and we now have two new teaching spaces on the second floor! I cannot wait to see the changes made in final stages that begin in May.

It is quite pleasant to see all the positive momentum in light of the economy and state budget cuts. I would like to thank all the members of the library team for their hard work and dedication to exemplar customer service. I think I can easily speak for the staff when I say that we have shown that having larger budgets allows for luxuries, but working together thoughtfully and creatively requires no budget yet the impact is equally as effective.

This month our Provost, Dr. Anne Myers

### Staff News

Katherine Brent will attend the ILLiad International Conference in Virginia Beach in March. On a personal note, Katherine and her husband bought their first house in December. Congrats and good luck!

Susan Carver, currently completing an MS in Information Science at UAlbany, will be interning in the Circ/ILL department this semester. She'll also be getting some experience at Reference. People may already know Susan from her earlier work with Cornell Cooperative Extension and/or Landis Arboretum.

April Davies will attend the ACRL (Association of College &

Doug MacLeod to do a repeat performance of his fall presentation—finding out how he gets his students to be aware of their own language use through viewing George Carlin clips is worthy of an encore. Add in some tasty refreshments and it becomes a must see!

If you would like to vet a work in progress, present a paper, or talk about engaging classroom pedagogy, please contact Beth Orgeron (x5841 or [orgeroe@cobleskill.edu](mailto:orgeroe@cobleskill.edu)). This is a great way to share your knowledge and expertise with colleagues. Once we have the schedule and locations confirmed, **we'll send out announcements via Sharepoint, email, etc.**

will return to the faculty and the classroom. She has been a tireless library advocate and for this I do not have enough words to express my appreciation. With her help we now subscribe to RefWorks, supporting our effort to promote academic integrity proactively rather than reactively; we have a strategic plan to bring regional art, for which she is passionate, into the library; and were able to add the research database, PsycINFO to support our new psychology program. She sees the library not as merely a campus resource, but a vital aspect of the education of the whole person. As Dean of the Library, I invoke all of my powers to officially declare Dr. Anne Myers an official Honorary Librarian! I am confident that with Anne back in the **classroom, the library's reference statistics will sky rocket** as she physically walks her students into the library (knowing her – she will!) to conduct their research.

Have a great semester! And remember, my door is always open and I love to hear new and cool ideas.

### Library Hours for Spring 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

Jan. 24	First Day of Classes
Jan. 27	National Kazoo Day
Feb. 1	National Freedom Day
Feb. 3	Chinese New Year
Feb. 15	<b>Susan B. Anthony's Birthday</b>
Feb. 21	<b>Presidents' Day</b>
March 8	Mardi Gras
March 12-20	Spring Break
March 13	Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 31	<b>César Chávez's Birthday</b>
April 6	National Student-Athlete Day
April 13	Scrabble Day
April 22	Earth Day
April 24	Easter
May 5-7	NYS FFA Convention @Coby
May 8	<b>Mother's Day</b>
May 14	Commencement

Research Libraries) conference in Philadelphia at the end of March. April currently serves on the Communications **Committee of ACRL's College Libraries Section.**

Tammy Rehberg joins the CASE staff this semester as a professional tutor in the Writing Center, as well as a support person to new incoming students for DSS. Tammy will also be helping with outreach to other Perkins eligible cohorts such as veterans and displaced workers or homemakers.

**Laura Skinner's class honored her with a standing ovation** at the end of fall semester. Congratulations on a job (clearly) well done!