



## CASE Moves Back Downstairs!

After more than a year, the Center for Academic Support and Excellence (CASE) is moving out of cramped temporary quarters on the top floor to the Library's freshly-renovated, better than ever lower level.

As this newsletter is going to press, pretty much all that's left to do is hooking up equipment and moving furniture. CASE plans to be up and running, and on the lower level, when classes start Jan. 25th. That first week of classes may

they get things ironed out.

So, what all has been done downstairs? Of primary importance is a new ventilation system. The dramatic death of the original system is what prompted the relocation of



still see some glitches here and there so please be patient as



CASE in the first place. In addition to HVAC, the lower level has new electrical wiring, more computer ports, and new walls in the offices, among other things. The restroom renovations and installation of a new elevator will happen in the next phase of the project.

## Construction... It's Going to Get Worse Before It Gets Better

Now that the lower level is mostly done, construction activity is moving into the Library's main floor and part of the top floor. The main things to be aware of this semester:

- Restrooms on all three floors, except for those in the lobby, will be blocked off.
- Part of the back computer area on the main floor will be lost and the whole area will be blocked off at times.
- It will be rather noisy.

This next phase of construction affects the whole building due to the restroom renovations. Once the others are blocked off, the single-stall lobby restrooms will be the only ones available until sometime in September. Everyone will need to be especially patient and considerate of each other during this time. You may also want to think about making a pit-stop in a neighboring building such as Wheeler Hall before settling in for that 3-hour study session here at the Library.

The back computer area on the main floor will be disrupted to some extent this semester. Luckily, with the downstairs open again, there should still be an adequate number of

open access computers available during construction.

You're probably wondering why we all have to go through this. What's the payoff? For this phase of construction, the big payoff will be ADA-compliant men's and women's restrooms on all floors and a publicly accessible elevator. In addition, at the end of the whole thing, the Library will have improved wireless performance, an ADA-compliant front desk, a new conference room upstairs, a more energy-efficient lighting system, and many other improvements.

We know that the construction activities are inconvenient and that the noise and dust are aggravating. (We work here all day, we're not likely to forget.) Try to keep the end result in mind and we should all get through this in a relatively good mood, with a better Library to show for it.

In the meantime, we'll do our best to keep everyone up to date via Sharepoint, email, etc. as things happen here at the Library. Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions or concerns about construction activities, or anything else (x5841 or [Library@cobleskill.edu](mailto:Library@cobleskill.edu)).

## Expanded Weekday Hours

Starting this semester, the Library will be opening one hour earlier Monday through Friday. While we don't expect vast hordes of people to be lining up to take advantage of the 7:00am opening time, it will definitely make things easier for

students needing to print out homework or papers before morning classes. Plus, those crazy people who actually *like* mornings, will probably enjoy the extra hour of quality Library time.

## Lopez-Williams Speaks on Asperger's Disorders & ADHD

Sponsored by CASE/DSS and funded by the Perkins Grant, Dr. Andy Lopez-Williams visited SUNY Cobleskill on January 19th. During the day, Dr. Lopez-



Williams spoke to faculty and staff on "Facilitating Success in the College Environment: How to Recognize and Support the Needs of Students with Asperger's

Disorders or ADHD." The program was quite informative and sparked some interesting discussions among attendees.

Dr. Lopez-Williams also did a wonderful evening program for teachers and parents in the Cobleskill community on "Development and Implementation of Effective Strategies for Children with Autism and Spectrum Disorders or ADHD."

Dr. Andy Lopez-Williams is the founder and director of ADHD and Autism Advocates in Utica, NY. He is a licensed clinical psychologist and has been treating children, adolescents and adults for more than 10 years. He received his PhD from the University of Buffalo and completed his clinical residency at the University of Washington. Dr. Lopez-Williams also serves as a consultant to The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter and Pathfinder Village and is a member of the Advisory Board for the Kennedy-Willis Center on Down Syndrome.

## Personalized Research Assistance

The Library will be offering a valuable new service for students this semester: Personalized Research Assistance. Fran Apollo and Beth Orgeron will be offering individual appointments for students working on research assignments. We have been in discussion with several instructors who are interested in having their students take advantage of this opportunity.

Students should (preferably) arrive with a clear focus or thesis statement. In just 15 to 30 minutes, they'll receive very

focused assistance and walk away with recommendations tailored to their specific need, ready for a successful research experience. They'll even get those recommendations on a worksheet to help guide them in their research, and that worksheet can also be used as part of the assignment assessment.

A small group of faculty are already signed on to pilot this service with us. Contact Fran or Beth (x5841) for more information or to get involved with this experiment.

## E-Resource Spotlight: Literature Resource Center

As you already know, the Library provides a wide array of online research databases. One of them, the Literature Resource Center, is the go-to resource for anything having to do with writers or their works. It includes biographical information, criticism, reference articles, plot analysis, and reviews on over 145,000 writers in all genres, from all time periods and from around the world.

You'll find quality information from reputable reference and journal sources such as *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, *Literature and Its Times*, *Daedalus*, *Journal of American Folklore*, *Classical Quarterly*, *Journal of Modern Literature*, *Chicago Review*, *Discourse*, and more. Literature Resource Center also includes specialized sources such as *American Women Prose Writers*, *St. James Guide to Science Fiction Writers*, *Characters in Children's Literature*, *Medieval Japanese Writers*, and many others. There's also information from more than 5,100 literary websites. These aren't random search engine results. The websites are selected by experienced editors for their substance and authority, and vetted against advisor recommendations.

## Recommended Reading

- Rainwater*  
by Sandra Brown
- Bright-Sided: How the Relentless Promotion of Positive Thinking Has Undermined America*  
by Barbara Ehrenreich
- The Gathering Storm*  
by Robert Jordan & Brandon Sanderson
- Blood Game*  
by Iris Johansen
- The American Civil War: a Military History*  
by John Keegan
- Hope for Animals and Their World...*  
by Jane Goodall
- A Change in Altitude*  
by Anita Shreve
- The Lost Symbol*  
by Dan Brown
- The Traffickers*  
by W.E.B. Griffin
- Angel Time*  
by Anne Rice
- Reinventing the Body, Resurrecting the Soul: How to Create a New You*  
by Deepak Chopra
- I, Alex Cross*  
by James Patterson
- Hidden Empire*  
by Orson Scott Card
- The Food of a Younger Land*  
edited by Mark Kurlansky

Literature Resource Center is even easy to use. In addition to the usual keyword searching, you can search by person or by work. Interested in Cormac McCarthy? A 'person search' on him yields over 100 pieces of criticism, seven biographical entries (several of which include the fact that his real name is Charles), and plenty of other resources. What if you're looking for information about a specific literary work, such as Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*? A 'works search' gets you about 100 pieces of criticism, reviews of the many movie versions, and even audio files of an NPR show where they discuss a recent adaptation of this classic novel, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* by Seth Grahame-Smith.

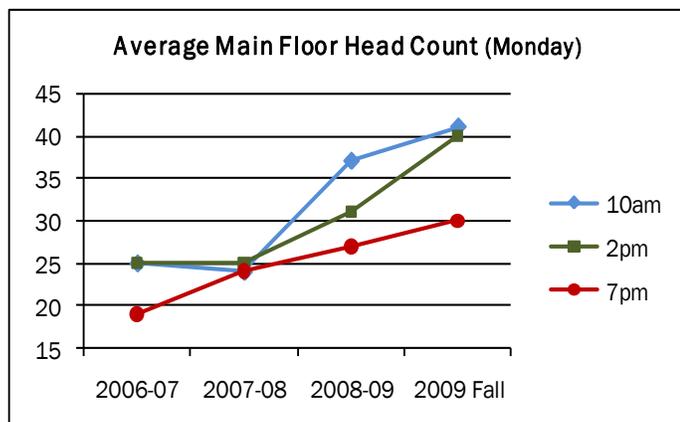
Like all of our research databases, the Literature Resource Center is available 24/7 from the Electronic Databases section of the Library's website ([www.cobleskill.edu/library/databases.asp](http://www.cobleskill.edu/library/databases.asp)). Please let us know if you have any questions about this database, or any of our other online resources, at x5841 or [Library@cobleskill.edu](mailto:Library@cobleskill.edu).



Literature Resource Center

## Usage on the Rise in Several Areas

Despite the noise and dust and flat-out inconvenience of construction in and near the Library, we continue to be quite busy. This is evidenced not just by the inability to find an open computer at certain times of day, usage statistics are up in several areas. We regularly do a head count on the main floor at specific times of day. The following chart looks at three time periods on Mondays. We can clearly see solid growth over the last few years. Mornings and afternoons continue to be our busiest times though evening activity is up as well. We anticipate that the next phase of construction will



drag these numbers down significantly since large sections of the main floor will be inaccessible for the better part of a year.

Things have been hopping in the temporary upstairs quarters of the Center for Academic Support & Excellence as

### New Online Tool: EBSCOhost Integrated Search

The Library now offers a new way to search all our EBSCO research databases (plus a few others), in all subject areas, at the same time! EBSCOhost Integrated Search lets users simultaneously search within a single subject area, select multiple subjects to search together, or just search them all.

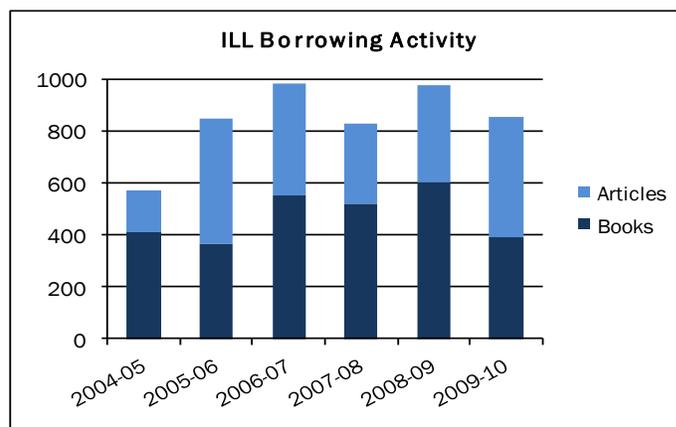
Integrated Search is available from the Library's website, on the Electronic Databases page ([www.cobleskill.edu/library/databases.asp](http://www.cobleskill.edu/library/databases.asp)). It looks almost identical to the regular EBSCOhost interface so it should be quite familiar to students and faculty alike. An additional Integrated Search panel on the lower-right of the screen allows you to add and/or drop databases to your search on the fly.

An interesting feature of this tool is that it defaults to showing only the most relevant results. For example, a search for 'food industry' in all databases shows 330 hits. If you click on 'Details,' you learn that those are the 330 most relevant out of 175,189 total! If you click on a specific database in the Integrated Search panel, such as Business Source Complete, you're taken to the full list of hits from that database— in this case, 43,671 of them.

EBSCOhost Integrated Search currently searches all the EBSCO databases plus NetLibrary, the SUNY Union Catalog, and several other databases. While the selection of resources being searched here is vast, it does not yet include most of the specialized databases such as ScienceDirect, Project MUSE, BioOne, etc. Future enhancements will include many more of these databases.

well; see p. 4 (DSS) for details.

Library usage is more than bodies in the building; use of services like Interlibrary Loan (ILL) has also been high. Total borrowing requests are up 64% since 2004-05; lending requests (from other libraries) are up by 40% 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 semester we'll probably be down by about 100 transactions for 2009-10 compared to last year. We're pretty sure this is due to fewer requests in total and to more requests for items we already have access to. Since we've been working hard to strengthen both our physical, on-site collections and our electronic resources— we think it is probably good news that people can find what they need right here at SUNY Cobleskill.

### Community of Scholars

The Library is introducing a new "Community of Scholars" event series this semester. The aim of the series is to provide a common time for faculty to come together and share what they're working on. Academic Affairs has agreed to sponsor a luncheon in February and a cocktail party in March here at the Library.

While the exact format is not yet set, the plan is for the first event to focus on the use of technology in research and instruction. The second event will be focused on various aspects of scholarly work.

In our opinion, the Library is neutral territory and thus the ideal place to bring together faculty from various disciplines. Faculty who have something they'd be interesting in sharing should contact Beth Orgeron ([orgeroed@cobleskill.edu](mailto:orgeroed@cobleskill.edu) or x5841). Dates and times will be announced via Sharepoint as they are set.

### FreeRice

Have you visited [FreeRice.com](http://FreeRice.com)? FreeRice is a game. Each time you answer correctly, the site's sponsors donate to the World Food Programme. You can 'play' in vocabulary, art, math, etc. Over 1.2 billion grains of rice were donated through FreeRice in December 2009 alone. Try it sometime.

*In theory, there's no difference between theory and practice, but in practice, there is.*

—various attributions

## From the Dean



We librarians are here to help the student  
 The advice we give is prudent  
 We strive to keep up with what's cool, what's next  
 Now for research answers a student needs merely to send us a text  
 With our new texting service our students will be information fluent

## Text a Librarian!

Need assistance when you're on the move? The Library's new Text a Librarian service lets you contact us from wherever you are!

Simply text 'asklib' and your question to 66746 for mobile Library help. Example: asklib where do I go for tutoring? It's just that easy. Quick directional questions, more complex research advice— it's all good as far as we're concerned.

We'll answer your questions just as

soon as possible. Keep in mind that if it's after business hours, that probably won't be until the next day.

One last thing— while we don't charge you for the help, your mobile company's standard message rates do still apply.



## DSS Busier than Ever, in a Good Way

One of the key parts of the Center for Academic Support & Excellence (CASE) is disAbility Support Services, or DSS. They work to support academic achievement and personal growth for students with disabilities. DSS provides services based on each student's documentation, tailored to their unique needs. Last semester, DSS worked with over 300 documented students including 141 new freshmen— an increase over fall 2008 of approximately 32%.

One of the more heavily used DSS services is test proctoring. Students who need to take written tests in a distraction-reduced environment or use specialized text reading software are usually eligible to take their tests at CASE. DSS staff supervise (or proctor) the test to help ensure academic integrity. DSS staff

proctored 563 tests during the fall semester. This represents an increase of about 41% compared to last fall.

Another service that our students used a lot last semester was E-Text. DSS works with publishers to obtain alternatively formatted textbooks and other materials, typically on CD. 49 students utilized this service during fall 2009 for a total of 217 separate E-Texts— an increase of 175% from fall 2008!

A recent student satisfaction survey gave DSS very high marks for their services and for how well they work with students. One student summed it up by saying, "I'm graduating and just wanted to say this center and everyone here has been so very helpful, so thank you." That's just the kind of thing we like to hear.

## Staff News

Brendan Aucoin has joined the Library's Circulation staff on a part-time basis, covering afternoon/early evening hours. Brendan lives in Oneonta and is getting married in August. Like Beth Orgeron, he's originally from Louisiana.



Pete Barvoets will travel to SUNY Plattsburgh in May to attend the 2010 Conference on Instructional Technologies (CIT).

In November, Katherine Brent attended an archives workshop in Glens Falls sponsored by the Capital District Library Council's Documentary Heritage Program. Katherine is currently serving as Preconference Chair for the SUNY Librarians Association's 42nd annual conference which will

## 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. 25  
First Day of Classes
- Jan. 29  
Corn Chip Day
- Feb. 7  
Super Bowl XLIV
- Feb. 12  
Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb. 15  
Washington's Birthday (observed)
- March 2  
Dr. Seuss's Birthday  
Read Across America Day
- March 13-21  
Spring Break
- March 14  
Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 22  
Sing Out Day
- April 4  
Easter
- April 7  
World Health Day
- April 15  
Tax Day
- April 22  
Earth Day
- May 9  
Mother's Day
- May 14  
Dance Like a Chicken Day
- May 15  
Commencement

be held at SUNY Brockport in June.

April Davies attended the Library Software Users Group Conference held at Dutchess Community College in October. In November, April was selected to attend the Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians at Harvard University this coming August.

Julie Lighthall has left the Library for the Wellness Center. We hope she enjoys working during daylight hours rather than 4pm to Midnight!

In October, Beth Orgeron attended her first fall business meeting of the SUNY Council of Library Directors at SUNYIT in Utica.