Telling The Cobleskill Story

Did you meet the love of your life here? Start your career here? Learn something important about yourself? We want to hear it. As SUNY Cobleskill celebrates its Centennial, the Van Wagenen Library invites you to add your personal stories and memories of the College to our ongoing story through our partnership with StoryCorps.

StoryCorps, a national oral history project, is coming to SUNY Cobleskill to record and preserve the stories of our community. We hope you’ll make a reservation for an interview with someone you care about or want to get to know better. Recordings will take place during Homecoming on September 22, 23, and 24 at the Van Wagenen Library. SUNY Cobleskill is eager to capture your stories of learning, growing, and finding your calling to share and preserve.

All of the interviews will be added to the StoryCorps Archive at the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress. StoryCorps will also provide a digital archive to the Van Wagenen Library which can be shared publicly, creating further opportunity for engagement around unique content and stories.

You can learn more about StoryCorps on their website (storycorps.org), you can also listen to some of the thousands of recordings they've made since they first began back in 2003. If you have any questions about the project or want to make your reservation, please contact Beth Orgeron here at the Library (orgeroed@cobleskill.edu; 518-255-5841).

Visual History

As you enter the Library this semester, you can’t help but spot some of SUNY Cobleskill’s history; an assortment of historic images have been reproduced giant-size and hung on our walls. The production and installation of these photos was made possible by a grant from the USDA’s National Institute for Food and Agriculture.

All of the images came from the College Archives housed here at the Library and were chosen by the Director of Communications and Marketing in consultation with Library staff and others.

Stop by the Van Wagenen Library and take a stroll through the first 100 years of SUNY Cobleskill’s history.

His library was a fine dark place bricked with books, so anything could happen there and always did. All you had to do was pull a book from the shelf and open it and suddenly the darkness was not so dark anymore.

—Ray Bradbury, Farewell Summer
At Last! Double-Sided Printing!

It feels a bit silly to get this excited but... we are thrilled to announce that there are new printers on the Library’s main floor. And they can do automatic double-sided printing!

We’ve been asking ITS for equipment that can do double-sided printing for years and we finally got it. The machines can also print color or black-and-white and charge a student’s print account accordingly. Check the ‘Printer Properties’ to make sure your print job is set the way you want it. Ask one of the librarians if you have any questions.

And Credit Cards, Too!!

Also new at the Library this fall... you can add money to print accounts, pay fines and fees, etc. using credit/debit cards. This is another thing we’ve been working on for years and we are so glad to have it working. Being able to take plastic should make life easier for all concerned. This does not include taking CobyCash. Sorry. That’s a more difficult problem to solve because of how CobyCash works and us being a state entity. Maybe someday.

Credit/debit cards can be taken at both the Circulation and Reference desks. Student employees can not take credit cards; people will need to wait or come back later if none of the regular staff are available.

Fall Book Sale

It’s time to help the Library raise a little money by giving us your old books and then buying others to replace them! That’s right, it is time once again for the Library’s big Fall Book Sale!! The sale officially starts Sept. 23rd on Homecoming Weekend and runs through the end of October (or until we run out of things to sell, whichever comes first).

Please, clean out your bookshelves and DVD racks to help us stock the sale carts. Simply drop items off at the front desk and we’ll take it from there. Try to get stuff to us before Sept. 16th so we have time to sort through things.

Prices are 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, 518-255-5887) if you have any questions.

24/7 Chat: Library Help When & Where You Need It

You can get help from a Reference librarian 24/7 by using our chat service. Seriously. Any time, any day, anywhere you happen to be. It’s even easy to use:

1. go to our website: www.cobleskill.edu/library
2. click on the big, green ‘Chat now’ image
3. ask your question

Whether you want to know what time the Library opens in the morning, where to look for scholarly articles on the use of nutritional supplements with horses, which are the primary colors, or how to track down a study that was cited in an article that was then cited in the book you’re reading—24/7 chat reference is there to help! And yes, those are all questions we have received and answered via chat.

SUNY Cobleskill librarians are usually on chat duty during the Library’s normal business hours. The other hours are covered by an international consortia that the Library is part of. We answer questions for other libraries when they don’t have someone on duty and they do the same for us. The participating libraries all share information behind the scenes to help make the service work.

You can also text us (518-444-5485) but unlike chat, text hours are not 24/7. Old-fashioned methods like coming over in person, email, and calling are ok too (Library@cobleskill.edu; 518-255-5841).

Recommended Reading

The Noise Of Time
by Julian Barnes
Siracusa
by Delia Ephron
The Haters
by Jesse Andrews
Red Platoon: A True Story Of American Valor
by Clinton Romesha
Another Brooklyn
by Jacqueline Woodson
The Long Cosmos
by Terry Pratchett & Stephen Baxter
Barkskins
by Annie Proulx
But What If We’re Wrong?: Thinking About The Present As If It Were The Past
by Chuck Klosterman
The Curse Of Tenth Grave
by Darynda Jones
Before The Fall
by Noah Hawley
Ten Ways Not To Commit Suicide: A Memoir
by Darryl “DMC” McDaniels
Bright, Precious Days
by Jay McInerney
Vinegar Girl: The Taming Of The Shrew Retold
by Anne Tyler
The Fireman
by Joe Hill
The Girls
by Emma Cline
You May Also Like: Taste In An Age Of Endless Choice
by Tom Vanderbilt
Dark Matter
by Blake Crouch
The Lynching: The Epic Courtroom Battle That Brought Down The Klan
by Laurence Leamer
The Hopefuls
by Jennifer Close
Wilde Lake
by Laura Lippman
Brighton
by Michael T. Harvey
Rise Of The Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us, From Missiles To The Moon To Mars
by Nathalia Holt
Ink & Bone
by Lisa Unger
Bon Voyage, Ryder Hall!

The view from the Library's eastern windows looks quite a bit different this fall as Ryder Hall was torn down over the summer. Ryder was originally built as a women's residence hall but was eventually changed over to faculty offices. Construction began in 1949 and the building opened in 1950 or '51.

Parts of Ryder Hall will live on here in the Library as part of the College Archives. We received its cornerstone and some of its bricks. The cornerstone had a surprise for us—it's hollow and items were stashed inside at the time of construction!

Unfortunately, the contents suffered water damage at some point in the last 67 years. The three local newspapers inside, all dated September 8, 1949, are mostly intact but too fragile to unfold. A baseball cap and some unidentifiable documents suffered more extensive mold damage; they are approximately the consistency of soft brownies now and cannot be further handled. There were a few things under the "mold-layer" that just might be salvageable. Maybe.

The Ryder Hall cornerstone will be on display in the Library for Homecoming if you'd like to come visit.

From left: Ryder Hall when it first opened, ca.1950-51; Demolition has begun, June 21, 2016; Almost nothing left, July 11, 2016.

Join The Library's New Book Club!

Van Wagenen Library recently received a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities to host a discussion group series celebrating the centennial of the Pulitzer Prize. The Library felt hosting "Pulitzer Campfire Readings: Reaching for the American Dream" was the ideal kick off our new book club. Prof. Erik Hage has agreed to facilitate each discussion.

The book club series will focus on four Pulitzer-winning novels; the initial title is Saul Bellow's *Humboldt's Gift*. The first meeting of the book club will be here in the Library on October 14 at 7pm (refreshments served). The Library will have copies of the books available for club members to borrow.

The Library book club is open to faculty, staff, students, and the community at large and we hope many of you will participate. If you're interested in joining the book club, contact Beth Orgeron (orgeroed@cobleskill.edu; 518-255-5841).

Raspberry Pi and Cardboard

Are you or your students learning Python? Or maybe making 3D apps? Want to see what they can do? The Library has acquired two Raspberry Pi 3.0 boards and two sets of Google Cardboard, available for loan to faculty and to students in conjunction with Information Technology courses. Ask at the Circulation desk for details.

Scholarly Publishing in SUNY Cobleskill's Digital Repository

The Digital Repository at SUNY Cobleskill, under the leadership of the Van Wagenen Library, is a repository and publication platform designed to collect, preserve, and make accessible the scholarly output of SUNY Cobleskill faculty, students, and staff. We gather, showcase, and make freely available the research and creative scholarship of the SUNY Cobleskill community. The digital repository is designed to make our scholarship easy to find, share, and use. If you are interested in publishing your work, or would like to offer the opportunity for your students to publish in our digital repository, please contact Peter Barvoets (barvoepd@cobleskill.edu, 518-255-5894). Visit the Digital Repository for more information.
New Info Lit Tutorials Available Online

The 2015-16 academic year was a busy one for the Information Literacy Instruction program at Van Wagenen Library. Over 1,000 students received face-to-face instruction in classroom sessions or independent one-on-one research consultations led by Instructional Design Librarian Don LaPlant. These in-person sessions were supplemented by a range of asynchronous tutorials and reference guides provided on our “Library Guides” platform. These guides, designed to support students’ discipline-specific research needs, saw an impressive increase in traffic. By the end of the school year the collection of 83 guides had received 17,365 views—a 519% increase over the same period in 2014-15.

Over the summer two exciting new tools were added to the Library’s instructional arsenal: Guide-on-the-Side and LibWizard. These web-based platforms both allow new tutorials to be integrated into existing pages on the Library’s website. Interactive tutorials created with Guide-on-the-Side allow students to interact with the Library’s existing search tools while getting instructions and feedback in a separate frame on the side of the page. Two new tutorials using this technology are already available on our Tutorials page.

The second tool, LibWizard, is a new product meant to enhance our existing Library Guides by enabling us to embed tutorials, quizzes, surveys, and forms in them. Beginning in Fall 2016, students enrolled in the Foundations for College Success Course (FFCS 101) will receive basic Library instruction through a series of LibWizard tutorials designed specifically for incoming SUNY Cobleskill students by Don, working in coordination with FFCS program coordinator Kelly Yacobucci. Visit the FFCS Library Guide! i you’re curious to see how the new tutorials work If you want to know more about the many ways Information Literacy Instruction can be incorporated into your classes, take a look at the Faculty Resources and Instruction tabs on the Information Literacy guide.

E-Resource Spotlight: Picture Book Database

The Picture Book Database “combines metadata from dozens of online and print sources, thousands of picture books, and countless publisher, author, and illustrator websites” to provide a one-stop site for information about picture books that can be difficult to find elsewhere. It is especially useful for assignments where students have to study artistic media, narrative forms, themes, etc. found in children’s literature. You only want books with digitally created illustrations? No problem, search by ‘Artistic Technique’. Need to know if we have the book here at SUNY Cobleskill? Click the WorldCat ‘Find In A Library’ button and we’ll be the first one listed if we do. SUNY Cobleskill isn’t listed? Click ‘Interlibrary Loan (ILLiad)” to submit a request and we’ll get it for you from another library.

The Picture Book Database currently features information on over 28,000 books and adds 75-100 new books each month. Besides artistic technique and traditional author or title searches, users can find picture books by artistic style, genre, character trait, age range, and more. The only downside of the Picture Book Database is that one of only two that is not searchable from the ‘search everything’ box on our website; you actually have to go there directly.

Like all of our research databases, the Picture Book Database is available 24/7 through the Library’s website. Please let us know if you have any questions about this database, or any of our other resources (Library@cobleskill.edu; 518-255-5841; text to 518-444-5485; or online chat).

It’s Election Time

The primaries and caucuses and conventions are finally over. And soon, the flood of political ads on TV will be gone! The main presidential candidates are set: Hillary Clinton for the Democrats and Donald Trump for the Republicans. Who will you choose on November 8th? Not sure yet? If you need to learn more about the candidates and their issues, we suggest the following websites:

Fact Check [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org)
InsideGov presidential-candidates.insidegov.com
Clinton’s official site [www.hillaryclinton.com](http://www.hillaryclinton.com)
Trump’s official site [www.donaldjtrump.com](http://www.donaldjtrump.com)

Are you eligible to vote but haven’t yet registered? The registration deadline here in New York is October 14th! You can register online, by mail, or in person. Visit [www.elections.ny.gov](http://www.elections.ny.gov) for registration forms and instructions. SUNY Cobleskill students that are NYS residents can also get a registration form at the AccessABILITY Resources Office here in the Library. We can’t, and won’t, tell you how to vote, but we encourage you to participate in the electoral process. Make your voice heard—register, read up, vote!
Iroquois Indian Museum Research Collection

A portion of the Iroquois Indian Museum’s research collection has moved into Van Wagenen Library’s newly renovated Archives & Special Collections space. The Library now houses their monograph and pamphlet collection, and a portion of their journal collection will move over in the future.

The move will give the museum more room for storing artifacts in specialized cabinets, and it will bring researchers into the Library to use the collection. The collection focuses on Native American history and culture, with an emphasis on the Iroquois, and also includes some local history materials. It will be searchable within the Library catalog soon and is available for use by appointment. Please get in touch with Katherine Brent for more information (brentke@cobleskill.edu; 518-255-5851).

On Display: Back In Time, Donuts, & More

Materials from the Diamond Jubilee time capsule are currently displayed at the top of the stairs on the upper level. The time capsule was excavated during the spring semester and the materials on display offer a fascinating look into life at SUNY Cobleskill 25 years ago.

As part of SUNY Cobleskill’s Centennial Homecoming, an interactive map illustrating the history of the campus will be featured on the Library’s main floor starting in late September. The display will also include Ryder Hall’s cornerstone (more about Ryder Hall, p. 3).

Banned Books Week is September 25-October 1. Van Wagenen Library will be highlighting books from our collection that have been challenged around the country, such as To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee, Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut, The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien, and others. Stand up for your right to read! Read a banned book!

Also this semester, Apple Cider Donuts Day will be returning in October (date TBA) and Hispanic Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Month are both in the fall—watch for relevant books on display.

More information about the various displays in the Library will be available online; you can also just come on over and see for yourself.

Staff News

Peter Barvoets attended the annual conference of the Eastern NY chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries.

Katherine Brent attended both the IDS and SUNYLA conferences this summer.

April Davies gave a brief presentation entitled “Make the Counting Count: Statistics With Purpose” this May at the annual conference of the Eastern NY chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries. In June, she received the Friend of SUNYLA Award from the SUNY Librarians Association at their annual conference.

Dawn Freisatz is now fully retired and enjoying it very much. We are in the process of hiring someone new for the job.

Dawn Ladanye got married in July and is now Dawn Foland. Dawn is our part-time Circulation Supervisor and a recent SUNY Cobleskill graduate.

Don LaPlant attended the ACRL SUNY Assessment Immersion Program this August. Earlier in the summer, he was at the SUNYLA annual conference where he co-presented a preconference workshop on the “SUNY Guide on the Side Pilot Project.” Don was also a recipient of SUNYLA’s Sylvia Chu Memorial Scholarship.

Josh Rimmer is now our full-time Evening Circulation Supervisor. He started out as an unpaid volunteer so this is a nice step up. Josh is a native of Schenectady and holds an MLS from Drexel University.