Public Relations Research at Penfield Library

This past fall, Penfield Library served as the client for two sections of COM 317, Public Relations Research, taught by new faculty member Lindsay McCluskey. The overall goal was to investigate student and faculty perceptions of library services and resources.

At the beginning of the semester, a group of librarians met with the classes to present possible research topics and provide background information on Penfield Library. Working in teams of 4-6, the students conducted background research, developed research questions, selected research methods, collected and analyzed original data through surveys of students and faculty, and provided preliminary public relations objectives, strategies, and tactic recommendations.

Each student team gave us (their clients) a professional presentation of their research and provided a written report. We were impressed with their work! It was clear that the students took the project seriously, worked hard, and learned a great deal throughout the experience.

Some of the key takeaways from the students’ research:

- The Library needs to promote its services and resources more
- Faculty are vital in encouraging students to use the library
- Students want us to reach out to them and get them excited about the Library, with newsletters, programming, incentives, and interactive social media campaigns.

The students provided a number of recommendations based on their research, including: training and using student workers to help with basic research skills; setting up peer study sessions; providing incentives such as raffles or free coffee/food for students to use the Library; sharing library news through social media, e-mail, and newsletters; hiring unpaid interns for social media, public relations, or graphic design; urging more faculty to put textbooks on reserve; and hosting more events. The students had many excellent suggestions for new and enhanced ways we can promote the Library.

We will spend time this semester reviewing the students’ findings in more detail and determining a plan to implement a number of the students’ suggestions. We enjoyed this partnership with Professor McCluskey’s classes and will seek out other opportunities to collaborate with students on future projects.

— Sarah Weisman
Homepage Changes Coming This Summer

This May will mark the three-year anniversary of our current library homepage, which means it’s time for an upgrade! Our webmaster librarian (with the aid of two interns) will be working all spring on user experience research and design for the new page. Here are a couple of highlights of what we know so far, from surveys and anonymous website usage data:

- Students and faculty agree that most of what you do on the library website is locating articles, journals, and books—which means that search will continue to be featured prominently on the new homepage.
- Lots of you are hoping for a more visually engaging page—so we’ll do our best to come up with an attractive design that augments the page’s usability.

We want to make sure the new homepage meets your needs and is easier to use than the old one. If you’d like to help achieve that, keep your eyes open for fliers, emails, and links on the library homepage asking for usability testing participants. We need your help to make sure we build a page that works for actual library users!

– Emily Mitchell

Maker News: 3D Scanners, 3D Printer Training & More

The library was fortunate to be awarded a TIP Grant this year, which we are using to purchase new maker technology, including an advanced 3D scanner. This will allow for scanning objects in more detail than has been possible before, either for study purposes or to create 3D printed replicas. This NextEngine 3D scanner will be available to anyone on campus. No experience is needed; just set up an appointment with the Learning Technologies Librarian.

We will also be making even more maker technology available to check out, including brand new Structure Sensors, which are small 3D scanners that attach to and work with iPads. They can be used for creating 3D models, as well as working with augmented reality (AR). In addition to these, we are circulating maker equipment such as crochet hooks, knitting needles, Snap Circuits and littleBits circuitry kits, and Arduino microcontroller starter kits.

Finally, if you are interested in learning more about our 3D printers and getting some hands-on experience, you may want to explore our new training option. We will guide you through a one-hour training to learn how to find or make 3D models, use the software, load the printer, and print something. If you’ve completed this training, you can then sign up to use the printer on your own. Learn more here: https://www.oswego.edu/library/3d-printer-training.

If you have any questions at all, check out the guide to Maker Services or email the Learning Technologies Librarian at sharona.ginsberg@oswego.edu.

—Sharona Ginsberg

From the Archives and Special Collections

Are you a faculty member with a recent publication? The 28th annual Display to Archives luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 5 - join your colleagues in celebrating their scholarly and creative works donated to the library in 2016. Watch for reservation details from your subject liaison.

Also, if you have published anything lately (books, book chapters, articles, reviews, musical compositions, etc.) but haven’t donated a copy to the library archives, please consider doing so! This will ensure your work is available in the library for interested readers and is included in next year’s Display to Archives celebration. In addition, in the library lobby we feature two displays of faculty work each year—contributions received between now and May 31, 2017 will be displayed in the fall. Material may be sent to your librarian subject liaison, or the Special Collections librarian.

– Elizabeth Young
Faculty Teaching and Research Collections Grant—Applications Open

Penfield Library will offer its Faculty Teaching and Research Collections Grants for the sixth year this spring. These are funded through a NYS Coordinated Collection Development grant, which will allow us to award several faculty grants for 2017.

Grants will be awarded to faculty in the amount of $500 for selected materials to be purchased by Penfield Library for its collection. Faculty members can apply by submitting a list of materials that either support their research interests or specific program/course curriculum needs.

Applications will be evaluated for compliance with submission requirements, quality of materials requested, curriculum needs that will support student research, and with the goal of selecting recipients representing the many fields of study at SUNY Oswego. Details on the application process (including eligible material types) and the submission form are available on Penfield Library’s website. The deadline for application submission is March 2 at 9:00 a.m. Applications sent after that time or that are incomplete will not be reviewed. If you have questions, please contact your librarian subject liaison.
– Mike Paxton & Deborah Curry

Penfield Library Instruction Sessions

Fake News! Are you concerned about the recent surge of fake news and the “post-truth” environment? Teachers, do you have a class with a research component and want your students to use reputable sources? Students, are you looking for resources for your many assignments? If so, Penfield Library’s instruction team is here for you! Instructors can contact your librarian instruction liaison about working with your students, or request a library instruction session by completing a library instruction request form. Librarian instruction liaisons can also help develop research guides and work with you and your students in online classes.

For other ways we can help with research, see our Research Help Services article in this issue (page 7). And don’t forget, the library has online resources that students can use or may be added to courses in Blackboard, including:

- Research guides
- Lake Effect Research Challenge tutorial
- Video tutorials on YouTube
- Support for distance learners
- Technology, multimedia creation and 3D printing for students

—Karen Shockey

Math Talks at Penfield Library

The Math Talks workshop series is offered most Thursdays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm in Classroom 2 at Penfield Library. Sessions are open to all students, faculty, and staff. The goal of the workshops is to support a positive Mathematics culture on our campus. Some of our topics for the Spring include topics from taking math tests or learning basic probability theory all the way to learning the ideas behind time travel!

For any questions please feel free to contact Gary Bolduc (gary.bolduc@oswego.edu). A complete schedule can be found on the Library events calendar or https://www.oswego.edu/ols/tutoring-center.
– Gary Bolduc
Three varied exhibitions will be offered in Penfield’s first floor exhibition space in spring semester: a series of panels that document a museum studies student project, a student-curated comic book art exhibit and an exhibit of creations by art students receiving their Bachelor of Arts degree.

**ART 380**
*Introduction to Museum Studies; Cataloging Practicum*

**Tyler Art Gallery Exhibits at Penfield Library**

Tyler Art Gallery Director Michael Flanagan’s “Introduction to Museum Studies” students are currently featured in image and text panels documenting a fall semester cataloging practicum. Students worked with a variety of unidentified objects to classify, measure, research and describe them. The exercise helped students gain hands-on cataloging experience and a better understanding of the value of thorough and accurate cataloging of new acquisitions in museums.

Introducing to Museum Studies students Sydney Hoefer and Vanessa Minges catalog a late 20th century ceramic vessel.

1984, Suzanne took off for NYC with not much more than a backpack and a BFA degree from SUNY Oswego. She spent the next 30 years working in Manhattan with Marvel Comics and DC Comics as well as other notable publishing houses such as Reader's Digest and Pearson Education. Along the way, she met some of the greatest, most talented people in the world of comics and was lucky enough to be given opportunities as well as artwork that she's sharing with her fellow Oswegonians. Suzanne “strongly believes that a degree from SUNY Oswego and an enthusiastic attitude can take a student anywhere she or he wants to go”.

The original artwork being displayed this semester is from the X-MEN family of titles where Beason served as an editor for many years. Also featured are uniquely light-hearted Spider-Man designs for Marvel's in-house picnic by industry legend John Romita, Sr. Other favorites from her collection shown here include covers and interior pages by current industry leaders she is proud to call friends--Carlos Pacheco, Andy Kubert, and Larry Stroman.

The semester will wrap up with work from the art department’s graduating bachelor of art degree students. Concentrating in graphic design or studio art, students reflect on their accomplishments at Oswego as they share a selection of their best artworks.

—Michael Flanagan, Tyler Art Gallery Director
Did you know that the Writing Center employs peer tutors from across the disciplines? Not just English and creative writing - we have tutors majoring and minoring in anthropology, psychology, philosophy, forensic science, business administration, public relations, business leadership, public justice, linguistics, childhood education, adolescent education, history, biochemistry, chemistry, biology, communications, and gender studies. Our writing tutors have outstanding academic records and possess excellent writing and verbal skills. Most importantly, they have the desire and will to help students write successfully in college and beyond. Here are some statements from writing tutors that confirm their commitment and the reward tutoring provides.

- “What I find most rewarding about tutoring is seeing progress with tutees who come in regularly. I had one tutee last semester who kept bringing me papers for a particular class, and as I worked with her, I could see that her writing was improving. She told me a few times that she had gotten A's on papers we had looked at together. It is very cool to help someone achieve something like that.” – Julia Brennan, Majors: English & Creative Writing

- “I helped a senior student write her personal statement for graduate school…. Seeing the letter evolve from an amalgam of personal experiences and ambitions into an articulate narrative, with each paragraph pointed to an end goal, was extremely rewarding for both of us.” -- Geoffrey Peterson, Major: MS in Chemistry

- “The most rewarding aspect of writing tutoring to me is having tutees come back in and being so happy about the grade that they received after the tutoring session. Being able to witness their progress from where they started is amazing to see, and it feels like I am actually making an impact.” – Alicia Britton, Majors: Public Justice & English, Minor: Forensic Science

- "I enjoy seeing potential in pieces that writers themselves view as hopeless. For example, I had an amazing experience when I worked with a freshman who was very stressed out about an assignment and through changes and teamwork, he walked out with a bright smile and satisfaction.” -- Lyn Mezi-er, Major: Anthropology

- "Being a tutor in the Writing Center has put me in touch with peers I would have otherwise never met. We work on their writing pieces and techniques, of course, but we get to know one another which encourages a mutual academic advancement.... The kind of mentor-mentee relationship that is established between tutors and tutees in the Writing Center allows for a personable, confidential, and encouraging learning environment that focuses on the individual student, using his or her specific needs and desires to help excel academically and learn to love writing." – Kristina Rovison, Majors: English & Creative Writing

Students can view the walk-in schedule by visiting the Writing Center site at www.oswego.edu/ols/writing-center. Instructors across the disciplines are encouraged to contact the Writing Center Director to request a classroom visit by a tutor. Tutors can share information about Writing Center services and respond to any questions.

Additionally, online writing tutoring is available. Numerous SUNY institutions participate in the STAR-NY (Sharing Technology & Academic Resources) online tutoring consortium, and all students enrolled at SUNY Oswego have free online access to tutors at http://www.cortland.edu/asap/online/star-NY_signin.asp. The Writing Center is also proud to continue sponsoring its Write Ways Series of weekly workshops (see calendar on page 7). These workshops are presented by staff and faculty from Penfield Library, the Writing Center, and various academic departments, and are open to all interested students, staff, and faculty. Registration is not required. Workshops are scheduled Friday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:00 in Penfield Library Classroom 2. Visit the Writing Center site and click on the Write Ways Series link for the schedule. The campus community should feel free to contact Steven Smith with any requests or questions about writing tutoring or the Write Ways Series. He can be reached at 312-3762 or steven.smith@oswego.edu.

– Steven Smith
Featured Student Work: Pages to Production

This semester, look for our new exhibit of student work in the lobby, featuring films from the Pages to Production project. This collaborative program brought together students from the Creative Writing and Cinema & Screen Studies programs. Screenplays were written by students from Juliet Giglio’s Screenwriting courses and turned into 16mm films by the students from Jake Dodd’s Intermediate Cinema Production course. Stop by the TV near the library main entrance to enjoy this excellent work being done by Oswego students!

Films on display include the following:

- Turbulence (written by Joseph Zawada, directed by Jarred Lyndaker)
- Quizzes (written by Jack Roche, directed by Jackson Gavin)
- Dismissed (written by Victoria Jayne, directed by Issack Cintron)
- Ace of Hearts (written by Jack Roche, film by Dan Pilewski, Cody Pitcher, and Michael Prentice)
- Quiet Controversy (written by Jackie McTigue, directed by Max Hlat)
- Causing Treble (written by Sean Maphia, directed by Bridget Dinan)
- The Corrupt (written by John Thompson, directed by Joey Kraus)
- Cheating Death (written by John Thompson, film by Gwen Clark, Jeff Clark, Nick Loper, and Noah Prentice)
- Banking on Your Life (written by Jackie Slazyk, directed by Alec Sebastian)
- We Need Space (written by Max Hlat, directed by Lindsey Fink)
- Sanctimony (written by Michael Prentice, directed by Colin Stafford)
- Crave (written by Jackie Slazyk, directed by Moreli Abreu, Victoria de la Concha, and Peri Saat)
- Goodbye Dylan (written by Liliana Scano, directed by Brian Bueche)
- The Big Break (written by Cameron Schultz, directed by Nico Blanco)
- Puppers and Maggie (written by Heather Clark, directed by Luc LaCroix)
- The Silhouettes (written by Max Collins, film by Jackie McTigue, Ethan Salerius, and Mia Sampson)
- Red Wire (written by Emily Apicello, directed by Jamie Hager)
- Broken Bonds (written by James Seegars, directed by Jenn Moss)
- Disconnected (written by Max Collins, directed by Devin O’Shaughnessy)
- Throw (written by Michael Prentice, film by Breck Donahue, Max Hlat, and Colton Shanahan)
- June Bug (written by Hannah Gonzalez, directed by Joey Pallusconi)

— Sharona Ginsberg

Librarian Fall Activities

Emily Mitchell

Our librarians at Penfield are eager to help students, faculty, and staff with their research and teaching. We want everyone to feel comfortable asking librarians for help no matter where you are with your research and we want to encourage faculty to recommend our services when they see their students struggling to find appropriate resources. We can help with identifying useful literature or digital media, getting your hands on specific items that you’re having trouble locating, citing the sources you’ve found, and much more. No matter how big or small your question is, we’re here for you!

There is a librarian working from our Research Help Desk during most of our open hours and subject-specific librarians that liaise with each department and who can be contacted to help on an as-needed basis. Consult our Ask a Librarian webpage to see the different ways you can connect with a Penfield librarian (i.e. desk hours, 24/7 chat service, phone/text, one-on-one appointments, and email) and see our list of department liaison librarians to find out who your subject librarians are and how to contact them. Department librarians are also featured on the library’s subject specific research and course guides.

Please get in touch; we want to be partners in and make valuable contributions to the research and learning that happens at SUNY Oswego.

—Chris Hebblethwaite

Study Skills Workshops

The Academic Success workshops are provided by our two Student Academic Success Specialists. They are offered most Mondays from 4:00 – 5:00 pm and most Tuesdays from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in Classroom 2 at Penfield Library. Workshops are open to all students, faculty, and staff. Some of our topics include effective reading strategies, managing exam anxiety, note taking tips, and priority management.

For any questions please feel free to contact Allison Peer (allison-peer@oswego.edu) or Alicia King (alicia.king@oswego.edu). A complete schedule can be found on the Library events calendar or at https://www.oswego.edu/ols/academic-success-workshops

—Gary Bolduc

Spring 2017 Calendar of Events

- January 27, 3pm-4pm    Write Ways: Comma Usage (Steven Smith)
- January 30, 4pm    Academic Success Workshop: Priority Management
- January 31, 7pm    Academic Success Workshop: Priority Management
- February 2, 6:30-7:30    Math Talks: Why Your Math Class Matters
- February 3, 3pm-4pm    Write Ways: Some of Those Other Punctuation Marks (Steven Smith)
- February 6, 4pm    Academic Success Workshop: Note Taking
- **February 7, 4:45-5:45**    Maker Workshop Track: Raspberry Pi Basics
- February 7, 7pm    Academic Success Workshop: Note Taking
- February 9, 6:30-7:30    Math Talks: Taking A Math Test
- February 10, 3pm-4pm    Write Ways: Writing for the Biological Sciences (Lisa Brancato, Tim Berge, & Dr. Tony Contento)
- February 13, 4pm    Academic Success Workshop: Effective Reading
- **February 14, 11-3**    Penfield Loves You Day
- **February 14, 4:45-5:45**    Maker Workshop Track: Raspberry Pi Basics
- February 14, 7pm    Academic Success Workshop: Effective Reading
- February 16, 6:30-7:30    Math Talks: How To Study Math
- February 17, 3pm-4pm    Write Ways: Thank-You Note Writing (Stephanie Pritchard)
- February 20, 4pm    Academic Success Workshop: Priority Management

(continued)
Spring 2017 Calendar of Events (Continued)

- **February 21, 4:45-5:45** Maker Workshop Track: Raspberry Pi Basics
- **February 21, 7pm** Academic Success Workshop: Priority Management
- **February 23, 6:30-7:30** Math Talks: Becoming A Math Wizard
- **February 24, 3pm-4pm** Write Ways: Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement (Steven Smith)
- **February 27, 4pm** Academic Success Workshop: Note Taking
- **February 28, 7pm** Academic Success Workshop: Note Taking
- **March 2, 6:30-7:30** Math Talks: Percentages And Fractions
- **March 3, 3pm-4pm** Write Ways: How to Get Published in Your Field (Kenneth Nichols)
- **March 6, 4pm** Academic Success Workshop: Test Anxiety (midterms)
- **March 7, 7pm** Academic Success Workshop: Test Anxiety (midterms)
- **March 9, 6:30-7:30** Math Talks: Fun With Probability
- **March 10, 3pm-4pm** Write Ways: Thesis Statements: Arguments Writ Small (Dr. Allison Rank)
- **March 23, 6:30-7:30** Math Talks: Word Problems — Yuck
- **March 24, 3pm-4pm** Write Ways: Because Length Matters: Structuring Long Papers (Dr. Allison Rank)
- **March 27, 4pm** Academic Success Workshop: Starfish Notifications
- **March 28, 7pm** Academic Success Workshop: Starfish Notifications
- **March 30, 6:30-7:30** Math Talks: The Math Of Voting
- **March 31, 3pm-4pm** Write Ways: Writing in MLA Style (Stephanie Pritchard)
- **April 3, 4pm** Academic Success Workshop: Effective Reading
- **April 4, 7pm** Academic Success Workshop: Effective Reading
- **April 5** Display-To-Archives Celebration
- **April 6, 6:30-7:30** Math Talks: Knots
- **April 7, 3pm-4pm** Write Ways: Paraphrasing: Do You Really Know How? (Stephanie Pritchard & Steven Smith)
- **April 10, 4pm** Academic Success Workshop: Priority Management
- **April 11, 7pm** Academic Success Workshop: Priority Management
- **April 13, 6:30-7:30** Math Talks: Time Travel
- **April 17, 4pm** Academic Success Workshop: Note Taking
- **April 18, 7pm** Academic Success Workshop: Note Taking
- **April 20, 6:30-7:30** Math Talks: Becoming A Math Wizard
- **April 21, 3pm-4pm** Write Ways: Best Practices for Writing Fellowship Applications: A Workshop for Students (Dr. Allison Rank & Dr. Lyn Blanchfield)
- **April 24, 4pm** Academic Success Workshop: Effective Reading
- **April 25, 7pm** Academic Success Workshop: Effective Reading
- **April 27, 6:30-7:30** Math Talks: Taking A Math Test
- **April 28, 3pm-4pm** Write Ways: Fixing Sentence Fragments & Run-on Sentences (Steven Smith)
- **May 1, 4pm** Academic Success Workshop: Test Anxiety (finals)
- **May 2, 7pm** Academic Success Workshop: Test Anxiety (finals)