



Wishing Stars and Moon County

Dorothy (Pfeifer) McPartland (Class of 1975) came to campus this fall but not just to visit her alma mater. Besides being a Cobleskill alum, Dorothy is the author and illustrator of *Wishing Stars*, a delightful children's book full of imagination and hope. The Van Wagenen Library, along with the ECHD faculty and student club and the Alumni Office hosted the campus visit as well as a book sale.

Dorothy was very generous with her time in speaking to Kathy Puciato's Early Childhood students as well as to children in our campus child care program. Several copies of *Wishing Stars* are still available for purchase in Fran Apollo's office; cost is \$17. Dorothy also donated a copy of the book for the Library's collection as well as a lovely painting that is hanging

in the Children's Area on the lower level.

Fran Apollo is again collaborating with the ECHD faculty in bringing another author to campus—a team this time. Mark Graber (writer) and his brother Jack (illustrator) have created *The Legend of Moon County*. This beautiful children's book is a story about young animals getting to know a part of New York State that many of us know well.

Mark and Jack have graciously donated a copy of *The Legend of Moon County* to the Library so you may want to check it out (pun intended) before their arrival. Keep your eyes open for announcements later this semester about the visit by this author-illustrator team.

An Idea With MERIT(S)

Most people know that the lower level of the Library is the main place on campus for students to go to get tutoring for classes, help with writing papers, and other academic support services. But, did you know it's also where you'll find the headquarters of the MERITS program?

Students who failed to meet the minimum requirements for regular admission but who show potential are placed in the MERITS support program to help them succeed at Cobleskill. The program offers mentoring, encouragement to join a club, referrals to on- and off-campus agencies, intense counseling and advisement, tutoring, and structured study hours.

Students in the SUNY Cobleskill MERITS program must perform their study hours (minimum 8 hours per week), attend all classes, complete all assignments on time, and meet regularly with their mentors, academic advisors and the staff at the Center for Academic Support and Excellence (CASE).

Currently, MERITS is a one semester program with follow-up in the second semester; however, with the Fall 2007 class, students will be in the program for two semesters with

structured study hours throughout. Grades for each student are monitored throughout their college careers.

In addition to the change from a one semester to a two semester program, other modifications have been made to improve the MERITS program since it began in Fall 2005. For example, mentors are now peer mentors rather than staff mentors. This change connects the incoming student with someone who can identify more closely with their needs and concerns.

The MERITS program is halfway through its second year. Close to 50 students returned this fall having successfully completed the support program in 2005-06. For 2006-07, the program enrolled over 100 new freshmen in the fall and is admitting its first spring class with seven new students starting on Jan. 22.

The staff of MERITS consists of Marilyn Barnes, Marina Brock, Kathy Johnson, and Lynn Abarno who all work as case managers. Linda Greenwald offers back up support and helps the students improve their writing skills.

Time to TurnItIn

We've talked about this before and its time has finally come—TurnItIn plagiarism prevention software is now available at SUNY Cobleskill! TurnItIn, like other such services, compares student papers to large numbers of Internet documents as well as to their own database of previously submitted papers.

Nine professors tried it out in the fall semester and one actually used it in his class, the others planned to use it this semester. They were all impressed when they learned how to use the program; one stated, "It's sweet!"

To use the program, professors need to see Instructional Technology Coordinator Jiang Tan for a 30-minute training. In this short class, they'll set up an account in the program and

learn how to create TurnItIn classes, how to enter students individually or upload a whole class at once, how to create assignments in the program, how to submit students' writing for checking, how to interpret the report, etc. Instead of setting up a formal class in the program, professors can also bring in a hard copy of a student's paper to check in the program and get a formal report on it. The report will show if the student plagiarized and the percentage to which their work matches the original material.

To learn more about TurnItIn you can visit their website (www.turnitin.com) or contact Dr. Tan here at the Library (tanj@cobleskill.edu or x5869).

Got to stall for time, try to think! I'm a librarian! I've read about undead samurai demons before! If only I could remember how to stop them!

— Rex Libris, in *Rex Libris #1: I, Librarian*, written & illustrated by James Turner

E-Resource Spotlight: BioOne & JSTOR Biological Collection

The Library added two new research databases in Fall 2006: BioOne and the JSTOR Biological Collection. As you may have guessed from their names, both databases focus on the biosciences. They also both offer full-text access to high-impact journals.

BioOne provides access to many peer-reviewed journals and bulletins published by scientific organizations such as the Wildlife Society and the American Institute of Biological Sciences. Some of the titles you'll find there are: *BioScience*, *Copeia*, and *Journal of Parasitology*. If BioOne has one weakness, it is that it doesn't go back very far; the oldest material is from 2000. That's where JSTOR's Biological Collection comes in.

Many of the journals that BioOne has

from 2000 on, JSTOR has from 2000 back. So, if you need *Journal of Parasitology* from 1914, JSTOR is the place to go! The Biological Collection includes all of the titles from the Ecology & Botany Collection we already had access to, plus more than 70 new ones and this collection is still growing. For example, the Wildlife Society publications are due to be added in 2007.

Both JSTOR and BioOne are accessible from the Electronic Databases area of the Library's website (cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/library). You'll find them on the Liberal Arts & Sciences and Agriculture & Natural Resources lists, as well the alphabetical list of all electronic resources. Contact Pete Barvoets (barvoepd@cobleskill.edu or x5894) if you have any questions or problems.

Upcoming ILLiad Enhancements

The Library will be upgrading ILLiad, our interlibrary loan (ILL) management system, during the Spring 2007 semester. Users can expect to see improvements in current options (tracking the status of ILL requests, etc.) as well as several new features.

Don't have an ILLiad account yet? Not a problem. Visit the ILL services area of our website (<http://cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/library/illsvcs.asp>) to get set up. Please contact Gregg Kiehl (kiehlgr@cobleskill.edu or x5851) if you have any questions.

Staff News

Fran Apollo will be flying to Seattle in January to attend the American Library Association (ALA) 2007 Midwinter Conference as part of her duties as Vice President/President-elect of the Eastern New York Association of College and Research Libraries (ENYACRL), and, of course, to represent us. She will also attend ALA's Annual Conference in June in Washington, D.C.

April Davies is serving as co-coordinator of presentations for the upcoming SUNY Librarians Association (SUNYLA) Annual Conference to be held at SUNY Maritime.

Kathy Johnson and seven CASE tutors traveled to Fulton-Montgomery Community College in October to participate in the first annual Training Association for College Tutors (TACT) conference. TACT is a peer tutor training conference with peer tutors leading the sessions (but professionals and professors from colleges in a two-hour radius organized it). SUNY Cobleskill represented eight of the sixty participants and the

tutors presented two of the ten sessions offered. The tutors unanimously agreed it was a fun and exciting day, and the students are looking forward to next fall's conference which is already being organized.

Gregg Kiehl presented a session at the Capital District Library Council (CDLC) workshop "Methods Not Madness: Evaluating Collections" in November. He will be presenting a session entitled "Mass Registration and the ILLiad Institutional Lending Web Interface" at the 2007 OCLC ILLiad Annual meeting in Virginia Beach, VA in March.

Julie Nark has joined the Library's staff as an Instructional Support Associate in Circulation and Interlibrary Loan.

Nancy Van Deusen and Gregg Kiehl will both be appearing in the Tri-County Arts Council's production of Aristophanes' play, "Lysistrata" January 27-28 at the Golding Park Community Center. A suggested donation of \$10 will go to benefit the Head Start Program in Cobleskill.

Short Stories, or, Assorted Announcements and Blurbs

A reminder... students needing to add money to their printing accounts must do so here at the Library. We can only accept cash or checks at this time. The funds will be registered to the account once ITS makes the adjustment at their end.

Jiang Tan's schedule is filling up rapidly so faculty should let her know ASAP if they will be needing to set up new Blackboard courses. She can be reached at tanj@cobleskill.edu or x5869.

The Technology Training Schedule website has a new url: cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/itdesktop/workshop.htm. Visit this site

Library Hours for Spring 2007*

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!**

Recommended Reading

Smashed: Story of a Drunken Girlhood

by Koren Zailckas

Green Roof Plants: a Resource and Planting Guide

by Edmund C. & Lucie L. Snodgrass

A Fez of the Heart: Travels Around Turkey in Search of a Hat

by Jeremy Seal

Something About Hensley's

by Patricia Polacco

Sesame Street and the Reform of Children's Television

by Robert W. Morrow

Galileo's Daughter: a Historical

Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love

by Dava Sobel