

**Special points of interest:**

- Digital Library Services
- Upcoming Events
- Treasures from the Shelves

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## Message from the Dean



It's hard to believe that we are in the last few weeks of spring semester and graduation is around the corner. We hope this issue heralds in the spring here at HCC.

The library is excited about several new changes in services and resources. For those of you who regularly use our databases, you may have noticed the new "360 link" icon

in all the article citations in our databases. This new feature allows us to link all our print and online holdings to each other and provides one-(or maybe two) click access from a citation in one database to a full-text article in another. We hope that this new service will offer you many more full-text articles at your fingertips in a single search! When OwlNet is launched for students, we will also offer you a single search box on the library's homepage to search multiple databases at one time. This, too, should reduce your searching time considerably!

April will be a busy month with our annual celebration of National Library Week April 14-18. We hope that you will attend discussions with

our distinguished local/campus authors and find great bargains at our week-long booksale. I think everyone will find something of interest in the week's activities.

I hope you enjoy the articles in this issue of the newsletter. As always, we want to hear from you about what you would like to learn about our resources and services. Send your questions or suggestions for future newsletters to me at [rector@harford.edu](mailto:rector@harford.edu) or to the newsletter's editors, Mary Somers or Melissa Harris.

Lucy Holman Rector  
Dean, Library and  
Instructional Resources

## Services in the Digital Library

We would like more members of the campus community to be aware of the services available at the Digital Library. Although computers can be found on every floor of the Library and many classrooms across campus, the Digital Library computers feature course specific software not generally available elsewhere. Programs such as AutoCAD, A.D.A.M., and Photoshop are installed here for student use. Another distinguishing feature of this area is the Digital Library Desk (DLD) staff who are trained to provide assistance in a wide range of computer and software use.

While not experts in every software application or programming language, staff members are knowledgeable in emerging technologies and most major applications. Some of the more common issues students can receive help with are formatting documents and spreadsheets, opening and saving files, using Blackboard, and retrieving login information for various campus applications. If a staff member is unable to assist with a specific question, the student will be referred to a more appropriate resource.

In addition to the licensed software and technical assistance, the Digital Library also maintains a scanner, three black and white duplex printers, and a color printer. (The Library charges fifty cents for color prints and seventy-five cents for transparencies.) If you have any questions or comments regarding our services, please stop by the desk or call us at 410-836-4256 during normal Library hours.

Carrie Dorman  
Instructional Resource Technician

## What is Information Literacy?

Your instructor tells you to meet in room L114 in the Library for a lesson on Information Literacy. And you think to yourself, "Ugh, that's the room where the librarians can take control of the computers, and I have to sit and listen to yet another lesson on the library catalog!" Is that all there is to Information Literacy?

Actually, there is much more to Information Literacy. Living in the twenty-first century has given us growing amounts of information. The Internet's size doubles each year. The vast amounts of "stuff" is hard to comprehend. Therefore the American

Library Association (ALA) decided to put a name to it. This organization defines Information Literacy as the following:

"To be information literate, a person must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information."

What we are trying to accomplish at HCC is to educate each student to be able to access information efficiently. But that's not all... we want to teach students how to evaluate found information and use it correctly.

So it's time to be thankful for those lessons in room L114. How do I find that book? How do I use the online databases? How do I search the Internet? How do I know if this is a reliable source? How do I locate literary criticism? All of these questions are answered in room L114. If you don't have a class scheduled, look on the Library's Home Page and click on Library Tutorials. Then take a look at some of the HOW DO I... power points.

Patti Pfau  
Information Literacy Librarian



## A Surprise in the Library

It was a beautiful morning and for some reason you woke before the alarm went off. You jumped out of bed full of energy to get ready for your two classes at HCC. Once you got into your car, you realized you were going to be early. Now that is something that doesn't happen every day! Turning into Entrance 3, your blood started boiling because you knew you would never find a parking space. Much to your surprise, you pulled into the lot just as someone was leaving. This was really a good day. Then you decided to go to the DLD in the Library to "surf the net" while you waited for your class to start.

You whistle a tune as you go into the Library and stop dead in your tracks because you are shocked at the site—there are tons of students from your high school walking into room L114, where you've had all your Information Literacy classes. You know these students are still in high school, and you even see your teacher from last year. And you think to yourself, "What are they doing here!?"

The Advanced Placement classes from the local high schools have been invited to visit the college for an Information Literacy class related to a specific research assignment on which the

students are now working. We know it is sometimes difficult to find information on advanced topics and thought this would be a good way to help students and introduce them to our resources. Also, it would be nice to know how to locate a book in a college library before arriving. We are hoping this program grows.

So if you see students from your high school in the HCC Library, know that they are not intruders, but are here by invitation.

Patti Pfau  
Information Literacy Librarian

## Announcements & Events

"When you re-read a classic you do not see more in the book than you did before; you see more in you than there was before." - Clifton Fadiman (1904 - 1999)

Allow others to re-read your books by donating them to the Library Book Sale. Please bring them to the Library Circulation Desk, 2nd floor, February 18-April 4. Some guidelines while gathering your reads include the following:

No	Yes	
Magazines Textbooks	Adult Fiction Children's Fiction Cook Books Craft Books Biographies	History CD's/Videos/DVD's Recorded books Appropriate non-fiction categories for both children & adults

All donations should be in good condition with no mildew. The Library Book Sale will be held April 14-18, 2008 on the second floor.

## National Library Week Schedule

Monday April 14	Tuesday April 15	Wednesday April 16	Thursday April 17	Friday April 18
<b>Used Book Sale</b> 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. HCC Library, 2nd floor				
<b>Amnesty!</b> HCC Library, 2nd floor Circulation Desk Return overdue library materials without penalty or fine. Materials must be in good condition.				
<b>Poetry Reading</b> Share your favorite verses; enjoy refreshments and door prizes!!  1:00 p.m. Library Patio, 2nd floor  <hr/> <b>Be the subject of a colorful READ poster</b>  1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. Room L304	<b>Meet The Author</b> Six published authors from a variety of fields discuss the writing process & answer questions. Book signings after presentation.  Refreshments & door prizes  2:00 p.m. Room L304, Library 3rd floor	<b>CSI In The Real World</b>  Professor Dana Kollman, former Forensic Services Technician, discusses her experiences as a CSI.  Her book, <i>Never Suck a Dead Man's Hand</i> , will be available for purchase after the lecture.  11:00 a.m. Chesapeake Dining Room, Chesapeake Center		

Check out the  
HCC Library  
Blog at  
<http://hcclibrary.blogspot.com/>



As a Library Technical Assistant, I work directly with the HCC Library's book collection by putting new books on the shelves, withdrawing older books from the system, and locating books requested by patrons of the Library. During my employment at HCC, I have happened upon many books that—though I was not intentionally looking for them—have become dear favourites. In this article, three such treasures will be discussed: *The Turbulent Twenties Survival Guide*, *Psy Fi One*, and *Twilight*.

“By the end of senior year, I was so tired of papers and exams that I couldn't wait to move to a new city, start a new job, and begin my new life [...] But pretty soon I realized that life after college isn't all it's cracked up to be [...] I feel really confused about where to go next....” In Marcos R. Salazar's latest book, *The Turbulent Twenties Survival Guide*, Salazar discusses and explores the questions facing twenty-somethings as they prepare for life after college.

Before graduation, the twenty-something has existed in a land of exams and structured activities for most of his life. After graduation, the world is thrust upon her, and she is expected to seamlessly flow into the role of a working adult. Well, college has prepared the academic and professional facets of the self, but what about overcoming uncertainty, separating the student identity from the adult identity, deciding what one wants from life, and developing and maintaining social relationships? Salazar draws on his experiences as a confused, questioning graduate to answer these questions in a lively, engaging, and informational manner.

A graduate of Harford Community College, I am currently pursuing my Bachelor's degree. My life-plans are drawn by semester; my goals revolve around GPA and graduation. What will happen when I must construct a working-adult identity in this chaotic world? If I do not have a course plan to follow, how do I know that I am making the best choices? Who do I want to become, and what type of life do I wish to live? Although I have not entirely answered these questions, *The Turbulent Twenties Survival Guide* by Marcos R. Salazar has been an excellent source of information and comfort, and I highly recommend his book to all students, regardless of age. We must take action toward constructing a fulfilling, confident post-college life. This book is located on the third floor of the library, under the call number HQ 799.5.S19 2006.

Neuro-behavioural research, synesthesia, extrasensory perception, dream research, IQ tests—whether in a psychology course, while reading a magazine, or when watching the news, it is likely that most people have encountered these terms at some point in their life. Yet, what do they mean, and how are they applicable in everyday life. In *Psy Fi One: An Anthology of Psychology in Science Fiction*, editors Kenneth Melvin, Stanley Brodsky, and Raymond Fowler, Jr., have assembled twenty-one short stories, each highlighting a different facet of psychology—with a science fiction twist.

*Psy Fi One*, published in 1977, has selected excellent stories from various writers (including Ray Bradbury and Ursula K. Le Guin) to illustrate and explore the possible implications of concepts in modern psychology. What would happen if scientists could stimulate the brain to produce feelings of love, and these feelings were marketed and sold? Read “Love, Incorporated,” by Robert Sheckley. How would the world be different if one could be taught to be a synesthete—perceiving music in colours and tasting the letters of the alphabet? “All the Sounds of the Rainbow,” by Norman Spinrad, is a psychedelic trip into the synesthete's world. Normality is the beliefs and perceptions of the majority, with abnormality as a condition experienced by a few. However, is it possible that a mass delusion could overwhelm the majority—leaving sanity for a few, and those sane few were viewed as insane? Norman Spinrad's “It's a bird! It's a plane!” considers this, with a surprising ending. In just four to twenty-five pages, this anthology will transport readers to highly imaginative—yet eerily possible—future worlds.

As a psychology major, I sometimes struggle to apply knowledge from the classroom into my life. Although *Psy Fi One* is not comprehensive enough to feature every concept in psychology, I often find a superb illustration of a hard-to-grasp idea in a story—leaving me with a vivid, exciting, and unforgettable memory of the term and its application today—and tomorrow. You can locate this book on the third floor, at the call number PS 648.S34.

Image One. Late evening. A suburban home. Inside, adults are watching television, and warm lamplight is streaming out of the windows. The door is open, and a young girl is standing at the end of her driveway—in pajamas. A man is standing by an empty schoolbus, holding out his hand, beckoning her to enter. Image Two. Late afternoon in a wealthy suburban neighborhood. A car accident

has garnered the assistance of a police car and a fire truck. While the fire chiefs are spraying the car with water, the police officer is on the other side of the road. Kneeling by a storm drain, he extends his hand toward a bright golden light radiating from the drain.

*Twilight*, by Gregory Crewdson, is a collection of forty photographs that are at once elaborate and mysterious, familiar yet bizarre, beautiful yet grotesque. Over four years, Crewdson planned and executed these photo essays to explore the uncanny, which as Sigmund Freud described, is a place where “something which ought to have remained hidden but has come to light.” Most photos are in a suburban setting, with small flickers of the uncertain, forcing the viewer to consider his/her ideas of reality. What is our idea of the suburban ideal, and what is reality? Where is the division between the imagined and the truth, the dream and the waking life, the normal and the abnormal? More importantly, does a division exist between fantasy and fact, or are our perceptions of the world open to countless interpretations (like Crewdson's photographs)?

When browsing the images of *Twilight*, I find myself wondering about my role in the world of Gregory Crewdson. Would I, were I the young girl in pajamas, climb into that empty school bus? If I saw light emanating from a storm drain, would I stoop to examine it, or would I run away? Is it possible that such events could occur in my neighborhood? Reminiscent of “Twilight Zone” episodes but distilled into a still images, Crewdson's *Twilight* entertains me, frightens me, and urges me to rethink my idea of reality and of myself. If this sounds intriguing, check out this book on the third floor of the Library, at the call number TR 647.C74 2002.

The Harford Community College Library maintains over fifty thousand books in its collection. Though I have walked through the shelves and handled so many books, countless are yet to be discovered. What will I find next week? Next month? I have stumbled across amazing books in the course of my job. What books are waiting to be discovered by you?

Mahria Hinzman  
Library Technical Assistant

# New Books of Interest



## **The Study Abroad Handbook**

Anna Lidstone and Caroline Rueckert

HCC Call Number:  
LB2375.L53 2007

Studying abroad is rapidly becoming the norm rather than the exception. Students who wish to have the experience will find this title invaluable. "This book will guide students through every stage of the process, from choosing programs and applying for funding to the challenges of living abroad. Containing information on the practical, financial and emotional aspects of the study abroad experience, the book also includes tips and anecdotes from a diversity of international students." Amazon.com



## **Hugo Chavez: The Definitive Biography of Venezuela's Controversial President**

Christina Marcano and Alberto Barrera Tyszka

HCC Call Number:  
F2328.52.C48M3713 2007

"In this international bestseller, at last available in English, Hugo Chávez is captured in a critically acclaimed biography, a riveting account of the Venezuelan president who continues to influence, fascinate, and antagonize America. This seminal biography is filled with exclusive excerpts from Chávez's own diary and draws on new research and interviews with such insightful subjects as Herma Markzman, the professor who was his mistress for nine years. Hugo Chávez is an essential work about a man whose power, peculiarities, and passion for the global spotlight only continue to grow." Amazon.com



## **Saving the Earth As a Career: Advice on Becoming a Conservation Professional**

Malcolm L. Hunter Jr, David B Lindenmayer & Aram JK Calhoun

HCC Call Number:  
S945.H862007

"So you want to change the world? If the thought of politics turns your innards, then don't despair. Hunter, Lindenmayer and Calhoun have written a thoroughly engaging 'road map' of the many options available to the aspiring conservation professional. It's packed with the hard-won experience of some of the world's most respected conservation biologists. Importantly, they tell you just how to get there, from the now-mandatory University education, to learning how best to plan research and get it published, to securing the right job." Barry Brook, University of Adelaide

Janis Jordan  
Reference Librarian

## **Contact Information**

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410-836-4268

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Library, 2nd floor  
referenc@harford.edu  
410-836-4131

Digital Library Desk  
Library, 1st floor  
online@harford.edu  
410-836-4256

## **Spring 2008 Library Hours**

January 22 - May 10  
Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### Exceptions & Reminders:

March 15 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
March 16 - 23 CLOSED

Newsletter Editors: Mary Somers, Reference Librarian & Melissa Harris, Instructional Resource Technician