

New Library Opens to Students, Community

by **Ericka Wellner**

In a lounge area reminiscent of a contemporary coffeehouse with sleek modern furniture and floor to ceiling windows sits T.J. Urbanski as he begins to share his excitement for college's new library.

"The goal of the library was to create an environment that would meet the needs of JJC students," says Urbanski who is JJC's library director. "The new library is a beautiful place for students ... to study and pursue their educational goals."

After nearly 40 years, the college library has relocated from the third-floor of the Main Campus J-Building to its home on the second-floor of the new Campus Center as part of the college's \$189 million master plan.

"The library now has seven group study rooms that can be scheduled for students working on group projects, plenty of computers that can be used to complete course assignments and research, and a stable wireless network," Urbanski says.

As the information age evolves, technology grows more and more prevalent, for this reason, Urbanski says the library must also evolve—marrying the traditional with the new.

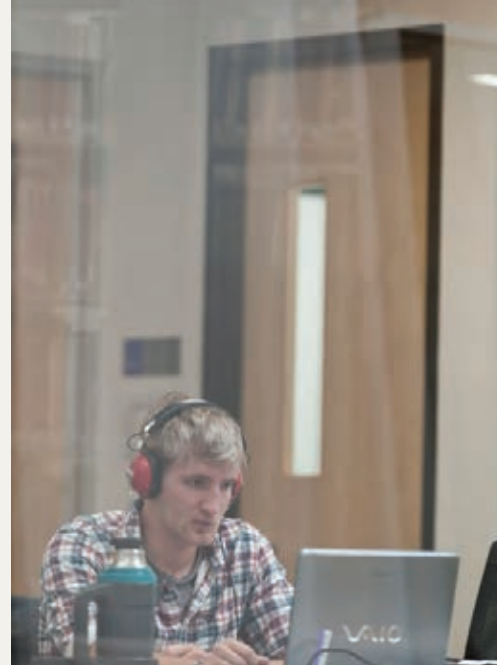
"The library should play a vital role in merging new social media and mobile device options with the more traditional education tools it currently provides to ensure it is an integral part in education," he says.

Not only is there an extensive collection of books and periodicals, there is a vast electronic collection including digital magazines, journals as well as over 660,000 maps of more than 12,000 American cities and towns in Sanborn Maps collection and over a million images in the digital resource ArtStor.

Also, new to the library is a tool called MyMediaBookBag, which allows students the ability to download audio books and eBooks to a PC, mobile device, and tablet.

And just steps from the stacks, outside on the terraces are green roofs, which in a culture moving toward sustainability, could be used as a valuable learning tool, Urbanski says.

Open 75 hours a week with 40 public computers, the library is also a convenient resource for community members.



It was for Jeremy Kreuzer, who was laid off this spring and used the resources in the library to help him land a job.

"I was laid off in May," says Kreuzer. "So I made a routine of coming to the library a few times a week and spending four or five hours on the computer, creating a resume and surfing the internet looking for jobs and filling out applications."

After nearly five months of being unemployed, Kreuzer recently got hired at Lunch At Hand, a delivery food service company, an opportunity he credits to hours spent in the JJC library.

"I don't have a computer at home so JJC was the next best thing," he says. "Who knows where I'd be if having the access to those computers wasn't available. I'm just glad I never got kicked out," he jokes. "I might be still be unemployed had I not camped out in front of the computers for days at a time."

Kreuzer's story is just one of many successful tales that Urbanski hopes to come.

"The hope for the future of is that the library continues to grow and evolve to serve the needs of the students, staff and community members," he says. "The library is the heart and the soul of the institution. It is our goal is to support the pursuit of our student's goals and ensure their success."

