Common Academic Experience Redesign

Community is at the heart of Pellissippi and at the core of the Common Academic Experience (CAE) program, dedicated to fostering a sense of belonging among first-year students.

The new CAE committee, co-chaired by Peter Nerzak and Heather Schroeder, is partnered with Student Life, Veterans Services, and other groups. Together, they are reimagining this program beyond the Common Book to facilitate the creative ideas of faculty, staff, and students that promote student belonging and academic success.

Each year, it selects a theme based on submissions, manages a budget, and allocates funds to those expanding their curriculum to encompass the CAE theme. It hosts select campus-wide events, such as convocation, and ensures the program is serving our students.

Want to be a part of the committee? Continued p. 2

Explore Virtual Reality

Be bold! Be creative!

Have you ever walked on Mars, investigated an Egyptian tomb, or gone swimming with a whale?

You can at Hardin Valley Library! Continued p. 3

Your Mic is ON

Testing. 1, 2. Hardin Valley Library now has a recording room and each campus library has digital recorders!

You can make a podcast, practice your speech, run a mock interview, create a screencast, and so much more!

Use free software to edit your audio files and share your thoughts and ideas on the web. Continued p. 2

Have a question?

Ask a Librarian

Just click on this icon on our website to chat with, email, or text a librarian.
Been Awhile Since Your Last Research Paper?

Check out our new Research Tutorial (pstcc.libsurveys.com/researchtutorial)! This tutorial is an interactive introduction to research and covers:

- How to Pick a Topic & Create a Research Question
- Different Types of Information (Books, Articles, Websites)
- Credible Articles & Books
- Reputable News
- Credible Websites
- Avoiding Plagiarism

If you are taking the tutorial for a class, you will need to identify your class number and instructor’s last name.

If not, you can mark “No class” and write in “No instructor.” At the end of the tutorial, you can email yourself your results.

Instructors, feel free to link it to your D2L course. Just email Stephanie C Gillespie (scgillespie@pstcc.edu) to receive all of your students’ submission date, answers, and grades.

Space Display at Magnolia Library

This year, the Common Academic Experience (CAE) took a bold step and selected a theme to challenge our thoughts: Inner Space, Outer Space. As a librarian, I felt this was a great idea! There is not just one Common Book this year, but thousands fit this theme within our collection of over 209,000 physical books and ebooks.

CAE’s theme takes us on a space journey to understand our inner and outer space. To examine how our self-realization and how our external environment all connect to our everyday life. We are constantly using our inner space in opinions, imagery, dreams, and feelings and our outer space connects through our environment.

Stop by Magnolia Avenue campus see our display and check out the library books and movies on this year’s theme. Space does not separate us, it connects us!

CAE Redesign

CAE is seeking faculty, staff, and students to help reimagine how it can best serve its mission. Faculty, have an idea that connects your curriculum to the CAE theme? CAE can offer you funds to make your vision a reality!

Contact Peter Nerzak at pnerzak@pstcc.edu for questions about serving on the committee.

Check out the CAE Guide (lib.pstcc.edu/CAE17-18) for information about this year’s theme and activities.
Your Mic is ON

The recording room is in the Hardin Valley Library in Room 230. You can reserve it up to two hours per day by either making an online reservation (libcal.pstcc.edu/reserve/hardinvalley) or simply calling the Reference Desk (865.539.7107).

Ready to get creative juices flowing? Take home a digital recorder from any campus library for up to seven days. You could interview someone for your next research paper or podcast, record yourself singing or playing an instrument, capture your thoughts for your novel, and more.

Check out our Recording Audio and Video Guide (lib.pstcc.edu/recording) for more information.

Explore Virtual Reality

Students can use the virtual reality system in ER 120. Instructors can invite a librarian to demo the equipment in class.

Consider the possibilities of virtual reality in education: tour foreign locations, observe medical procedures, analyze 3D models, or create art and music in the air.

Hardin Valley Library also has Google Cardboard for checkout to use with any smartphone whose screen is at least five inches.

Find out more about using virtual reality in education, which games and software we have, and more on our Virtual Reality Guide (lib.pstcc.edu/vr).

Human Trafficking Awareness Workshop

Keri Withington

When we think of outer space, you can see how humans exist in an environment involving time and space that is affected by our changing conditions. The quality or the value of human existence can be seen through a sociological and environmental scope. We are impacted by the space and the people around us.

Unfortunately, many people are denied access to their basic rights and needs, including economic and environmental needs. Human trafficking is a serious problem both around the globe and right here in the Knoxville area!

Come join us on Monday, October 30, from 10:45am to 11:40am as the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking offers a basic overview of human trafficking, red flags to watch out for, and ways that we—both individually and as a group—can respond to the human trafficking problem in our communities.

This training workshop will be held in the Community Room on Magnolia Campus, and it is open to all Pellissippi faculty, staff, and students.

I am so excited that we are able to host this event, and that we will be able to learn in practical ways about this important issue!
Library Updates

OneSearch had a major makeover this summer. OneSearch lets you search not only library books and ebooks but also journal articles, newspapers, streaming videos, streaming audiobooks, and more! One Search is accessible off-campus—just log in with your Pellissippi username and password.

How did OneSearch change? While the content is the same, the look and feel on the screen are quite different. AND there is now an embedded Ask a Librarian chat slide-out for easy access to help while you are searching.

Also, Research Library has replaced Curriculum Essentials. Research Library is a multidisciplinary database offering a diverse mix of scholarly journals, trade publications, magazines, and other current sources in about 150 subject areas, including arts, education, psychology, women’s studies, and more! The database is updated daily and includes over 6,400 titles with 75% available in full-text.

Finally, our reference collection is now available to check out for seven days for faculty, staff, students, and community borrowers.

Rebel Readers at Strawberry Plains

Rachael Skyles

Underpants, breaking dishes, and real bummiers. Seemingly unrelated, but genuine reasons books have been challenged in American libraries.

Strawberry Plains organized an interactive display with the help of student Kelsey Stapleton to expose students to a practice many did not know existed. We highlighted the process of challenging a book and its impact on intellectual freedom. We partnered with the Strawberry Plains Creative Writing Club to host “Rebel Readers.”

Students Kayla Stuffle, Casey Thomas, Maddie Justice, Maciah Cole, and Katie Samples read excerpts from banned or challenged books with facilitated discussion hosted by Professors Patricia Ireland and Summar West.

To Kill a Mockingbird, Of Mice and Men, and Captain Underpants were among the books discussed with our students.

Banned Books Week

Each September, the American Library Association and the PSCC Libraries set aside a week to raise awareness of library materials that are challenged, banned, or censored around the world.

Banned Books Week encourages intellectual freedom!

We created displays, a Banned Books Week Guide (lib.pstcc.edu/c.php?g=724712), and fun activities to promote intellectual freedom and open inquiry.

Library Newsletter Archive (lib.pstcc.edu/about_library/publications)