

Media Musings

Media Center Newsletter

Special Edition: *The Creative Mind*

Points of Interest

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- How School Can Turn You Crazy



Rm 220

Tribble Library

Ph: 757-594-8848

mediacenter@cnu.edu

jngray@cnu.edu

Johnnie Gray

ILL Librarian/Interim Director
of Media Services<http://media.cnu.edu>

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Feed Your Brain! by Johnnie Gray, Interim Director of Media Services

Even though you might be currently enrolled at CNU, you probably have personal interests that make you seek information outlets elsewhere. Why not try a self-paced lecture? Maybe you have a favorite painter that you like to read about or you have a budding interest in linguistics, but don't want to take a formal class or read a book about the subject. Nearly any subject you can imagine is out there and being talked about by a professional in the field. There is an increasing number of freely available lectures online - many are given by people that are well respected in their field. They range any-

where from 25 minutes to over an hour and may come with downloadable notes. There are also sites that are not associated with iTunes that freely post lectures online and the content is simply astounding.

Here are my top places for free lectures (other than on iTunes):

www.learnersTV.com
www.openculture.com
www.ted.com
www.academicearth.com
www.virtualprofessors.com

Some of these websites have duplicate content, but are well-established as free sources of lectures. Most people use iTunes to man-

age their music library, but fail to realize that there are podcasts that are great to listen to when you work out or clean your room. Browse through the podcasts and you'll see topics such as cooking, the paranormal, technology and just about anything under the sun. From iTunes, you can also access iTunes U. Universities such as MIT, Harvard, Yale, Oxford, UC Berkeley and Princeton all have free lectures available through iTunes U. The amount of information that is there for you to learn is astounding. All you have to do is access it. ☺

If you have used our scanning room, you have noticed we have new computers with larger displays as well as Adobe Creative Suite 5. If you didn't know...now you know!



DVD News

*Did you know
that we have all
of the Harry
Potter movies?*



New Media

If you have any suggestions for new DVDs or CDs, please let us know. We listen to you!

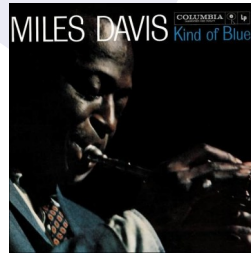
Check out the new media page at <http://www.cnu.edu/media/NewMedia/index.asp>

Unleashing Your Musical Beast by Riley Little, Media Student Manager

The Tribble Library, unbeknown to many, holds the keys necessary for unleashing your musical creativity here at CNU. In the Media Center you can find a wide variety of hardware and software that allows for students to create near-studio quality sound without paying the extravagant price that hinders so many people from being able to do what they want to do with their music.

The Media Center currently circulates three Audio-Technica AT2020 USB Condenser microphones as well as a wide variety of other equipment that can take your sound to the next level. Keeping an in house 25-Key USB MIDI Controller keyboard in addition to allowing access to various audio editing software programs including Logic Express, Garage Band, and Audacity in our editing suites allows the Media Center to stay on the cutting edge of the technological boundaries of music editing.

If you are a novice musician or aspiring artist feel free to stop by and ask any of our desk employees about what we can do to help you reach your fullest potential here at CNU. 🎧



*Need training on software
or equipment we own?
Want advice on the best
uses of the equipment
we have? Make an
appointment. We can
help!*

More Tools for Creativity by Johnathan Waller, Media Student Assistant

The Tribble Library Media Center is a fertile garden for the budding artist. We have a wide variety of hardware and industry standard software that will not only bring your work to life in superior quality, but will dramatically increase your productivity. Among several of our newest editions of the Media Center, we are the most excited about the arrival of our Canon Vixia Camcorders, which capture video footage directly to a SD Card. To compliment our new camcorders and to give you, the cameraman, a seamless video recording experience, we are now in possession of 16 Gigabyte SD cards, which allow multiple hours of uninterrupted

video recording. Interested in video recording, but are pushed away by the thought of carrying around big, bulky camera bags? Check out our Flip Slide HD Camcorders. Our Flip cameras are really small, and about the size of a cell-phone, so it fits right in your pocket. Another great feature is a built in USB adapter, that extends from its protective cover with but a flick of a switch. Eliminating the need for any extra wires for transferring your footage, further simplifying the process.

Video recording doesn't catch your interest? The Media Center now has Adobe Creative Suite 5 installed in our editing suites and our scanning room. One of the newest features of

Photoshop CS5 is a feature called "Continuous Background." What if you wanted to remove a nagging mark from a stunning photo? Photoshop now has the capacity to scan the immediate area around the selected deleted area, then fill in the deleted area with the pattern of the scanned area, to make it as if an object was never there. Adobe Creative Suite 5 better supports the integration of our Wacom Intuos4 Tablets, further improving and enriching the illustrative experience. 🎨



Collection Highlights: How School Can Turn You Crazy by Hunter Ford, Media Student Assistant

The Media Center's Collection space, while already loaded with CDs ideal for a music-theory course and films that are the perfect release for when the homework is complete or just too much, also houses several cinematic gems that urge students to stay afloat, academically and mentally, throughout the semester.

The first of these three films is Ron Howard's 2001, Academy Award-winning "A Beautiful Mind," a biographical drama of the life of MIT professor Dr. John Nash. While the film does not depict how the psychosis externally affects his life and relationships until after he has graduated, the movie provides a glimpse into his psychological decline while it develops under the pressure Nash feels to publish a truly original, mathematical theory while in school.

However, those who hold degrees in Math or Science are not the only targets, as shown in Larry Peerce's "The Bell Jar," which is based on Sylvia Plath's questionably autobiographical novel of the same name (published in 1963). Accepted into a summer internship to write for a magazine in New York City, Esther Greenwood had evoked enough literary potential in herself during her time at university to move towards having her name recognized. However, as is the case with many great writers, she spirals from a comfortable frame of mind to feeling

cut-off from the world around her (trapped in a "bell jar"), having placed tremendous pressure on her abilities in school to attain the position she and her work have achieved. The 1979 classic is a poignant, in-depth look at how depression and the academic obligations one must fulfill combine for a self-defeating backfire.

The third film to be mentioned, Darren Aronofsky's 1998 "Pi," reflecting the obsession with mathematics seen in "A Beautiful Mind," will make some wonder if numbers and insanity hold some sort of correlation. Aronofsky's feature debut (feels as though it) zooms in to the socially-stranded life of Max Cohen, a number theorist who believes that, for any dilemma or mere occurrence, there is a string of digits that will explain the phenomena. This theory sends Cohen hunting for answers that even his former math professor advises against, suggesting his search will only further confuse his life.

Together, these three films can serve as a reminder for students to have their scholarly aspirations, but to not allow their efforts toward those goals become their sole purpose for living. Other films in the Media Center's collection carry on this theme, but these three in particular felt like the appropriate wake-up call. Check-out these films and keep an eye on your obsessions. 🎬

