Skylab: Not Just Your Mother’s Space Station

I wanted to be an astronaut, but my big brother stole my Space Camp money out of my piggy-bank-coffee-can when I was 7. That is a fact. Another one is that I don’t like math so much. And, it turns out, I’m exceedingly pro-gravity. So, I turned my attention to painting and writing instead. It turns out that painting also has requirements. Like dexterity. And vision. So if you wonder what I am doing as I write this, then I’ll tell you: I’m just living the dream, man. Living the dream. Ahem.

But. You want to know about the New! Skylab! On! The! 5th! Floor! Then, I’ll tell you. It is not a NASA space station. We didn’t send dogs or monkeys up to it first. We did, however, use some of your tech-fee money (btw—thanks!), some of the Provost’s money (merci beaucoup!), and some out of the Library Pocketbook to create a Feng-Shui-ed Space-Age Technology Supercenter. I’m not even joking about the feng shui. I pointed my toes north-by-northwest up there and achieved a certain oneness.*

The Skylab features—are you ready for this?—a lot of stuff. 29 PCs, 2 Macs, a Multimedia Conversion Center, and artwork by one of our very own library staff so that you can be assured that this is just her day job. But that’s not all! The computers have Souped-Up Software™ that I could rattle off to impress you, and I think I will (because that’s what I’m doing! Enticing! To be honest!):

On the PCs: Audacity audio editor, Adobe media player, PDF creator, VLC media player, IMG burn, MS Office Suite 2010, MS Silverlight, SPSS, to name but a few!**

On the Macs: Adobe Master Suite CS5, Automator, Garage band, MS Suite 2011, Final Cut Pro, to name but a few!***

At the Conversion Center: Many things, but something in particular that will apparently take my cassettes and convert them to MP3s. Wait!? There is a certain pleasure one gets from winding up eaten tapes by putting a pencil through the gears and turning. I think so. I’m the Analog Ace. A superhero of sorts.

Oh yeah: there’s an Argonet Printer up there. Boyz.

So, finish up what you’re doing in here, and ride the elevator up to the 5th floor. You won’t be disappointed. Skylab is where the mind meets the machine. Where the intellect meets ingenuity. Where you hear the tree falling in the forest even when you’re not there. For example.

*“Students achieving Oneness will move on to Twoness”—Woody Allen. To mix movie references.
**for a full list, ask.
***better yet, go check it out. I’m for real, Mrs. Jackson.