

# Library Notes

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### Library Notes

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## Ngozi Retires

The end of September saw the end of an era in the Library. September 30 was Ngozi Agbim's last day at work. Retiring after 33 years of service and commitment to LaGuardia Community College, Ngozi Agbim leaves an outstanding legacy of accomplishments. In 1976 she was appointed Library Chair. Her leadership saw the growth of the library and its faculty and services to its present day programs.



The Library's Instruction Program is one of the most innovative in CUNY.

Needless to say we just had to celebrate all her contributions and all she

has meant to the Library and College. On October 26 we got together to thank her. As you can imagine there were tears

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## The Information Commons: A Look into the Library's Future

### Information Commons

by Jane Devine

The Information Commons approach is accepted and successful on many campuses across the United States and abroad. Part of its success is due to the simple fact that it makes college a little easier for students who will find many of their service needs in one area of the campus. They may be able to meet with a study group, complete homework, print out assignments and email and chat all while visiting the same area.

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### Information Ecology

by Marie C. Spina

Information Ecology is about access that involves non-frustrating, seamless services where and when they are needed. An Information Commons is ecological because it's a place that supports the physical and intellectual needs of users.

As the College develops a Master Plan, we must explore service proximities and interconnections that sustain information access. An Information Commons design offers a new kind of space in which

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## Information Commons

by Jane Devine

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The Information Commons is an enhanced library setting. At its core is the modern library with its mix of traditional services such as a reference desk and print collections, and electronic services such as virtual reference, easy access to databases and online resources, and remote access. The enhancement part of the equation comes when related services are located in close proximity to those the Library offers. These may include computer labs, writing centers, group study rooms, multimedia creation labs, copy centers and any other service that makes finding, using and managing information and research assignments easier for students.

The LaGuardia Library already qualifies to be called an Information Commons as it already offers the IC's basic components. The IT Computer Lab located in the Library is an example of a strategic alliance that brings this high demand service into the Library realm for the benefit of students. The IT Division does an excellent job of manning the computer lab service point and helping students. Its closeness to the Library reference desk means that students can also have research help close at hand when they need it.

It wouldn't be hard to imagine other services that would be useful to LaGuardia students. Here's a wish list that may serve as a way to start a dialog around campus. Students would benefit from these services either being added to the Library or placed in proximity to it:

- Group Study Rooms (preferably in the library where students can also use our resources)
- Media Production Center
- Separate Reserve Collection Area and study space (such an area can be open longer hours)
- Copy Center (scanning, faxing services also offered)
- Short term child care
- Ready access to the Writing Center during the report writing season
- Internet Café
- Bookstore or place where supplies like paper, pens, disks can be purchased

What would you like to add to this list? If you would like to make suggestions or wish to discuss the IC idea further, please contact Jane Devine or Marie Spina.

## Information Ecology

by Marie C. Spina

*Continued from page 1*

teaching, information, study and service needs are satisfied in a way that improves learning outcomes. An ecological info-commons is welcoming and safe. It makes students and faculty want to stay and complete a task and go beyond just immediate needs.

An Information Commons should serve functional relationships. Students always need information, they always need computer help, paper, advice, faculty and support staff to help them. They need child care, pens, mentors and writing help. They need quiet space for study and reflection and the privacy to experiment in reading and writing creatively. Students also need group study space in which to share work and ideas. If the designers of dozens of ongoing Information Commons are on the right track, this new type of space for learning, research and support will sustain all kinds of academic and intellectual development.

CUNY's Brooklyn College boasts an Information Commons and there is a partial directory of other colleges across the country who have implemented IC plans at <<http://www.brookdale.cc.nj.us/library/infocommons/icsites/sitestype.htm>>. There are links that connect to floor plans, planning materials and photographs.

To learn more about the Information Commons idea, see the PowerPoint presentation given by Marie C. Spina and Jane Devine during the September 2004 Opening Sessions program, available at <<http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/publications/default.htm>>.

### **Information Ecology Creating a Sustainable Habitat for Information Literacy: Encounters on the Information Commons**

LaGuardia Community College  
Opening Sessions - September 1, 2004  
**Jane Devine & Marie Cimino Spina**

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## News From the Units

### Collection Development

by Dawn Amsberry

With the funds that we received through the Community College Investment Plan last year, we were able to significantly update our reference collection. We purchased several excellent reference sets from Gale Publishing, including updated editions of *American Men and Women of Science*, *Dictionary of American History*, *Gale Encyclopedia of Science*, and *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations*. We also purchased several new literature-related titles from Gale: *Gale Critical Companion to Feminist Literature*, *Reference Guide to World Literature*, *World Writing in English*, and *Twayne Companion to Contemporary World Literature*. Other new encyclopedia sets cover topics such as religion, film, clothing and fashion, ancient Europe, the environment, and law. These are all high-quality, accessible sources that will be very useful for students doing research projects. For more information about these new resources contact the Collection Development Librarian, Professor Dawn Amsberry (via GroupWise or at ext. 5424.)

Because of the many new books we purchased last year, the library shelves have begun to get crowded. To address this issue, the newly-formed Collection Development Committee devised a plan to begin removing outdated material from the science and technology sections on the mezzanine level of the library. Work was begun on this project in October and progressed throughout the semester. Students will find it easier to quickly locate accurate, up-to-date material in the areas of computer science, nursing and allied health, nutrition and technology.

In addition to updating our book collection, the Collection Development unit has also updated the Library Faculty Liaison program. A new librarian has been added to the program: Steve Ovadia is the new liaison to the Communication Skills Department. For a complete list of the Library-Faculty Liaisons, go to:

[Http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/collectiondev.htm](http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/collectiondev.htm).

### Web Services:

**What's New Library Blog**  
By Steven Ovadia

The Library welcomes Steven Ovadia who joined the LaGuardia community in September as the new Web Services Librarian.



The Library now features a blog on its site. Located at < <http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/blog/whatsnew.html> >, the What's New Library Blog features news about the Library and about the world of information science. Updated daily, the blog has discussed everything from Google to calendars, has pointed out interesting stories that readers might have missed and has given a librarian's perspective to well-known stories.

A blog or Web log is a series of posts, usually pointing to online sites and articles, organized in chronological order. They're mentioned everywhere. They were credited with bringing the CBS "Fake Documents" controversy to light and they were acknowledged for revitalizing Howard Dean's campaign. Mainstream news organizations like *MSNBC* and the *New York Times* have even begun to use them on their websites.

Blogs are finding a place in the educational world as well. Our hope is that the Library's blog is the first of many from around the LaGuardia community. If you'd like to start a blog, or just want to learn more about them, contact Steve Ovadia (ext.#6022) or email him at [sovadia@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:sovadia@lagcc.cuny.edu).

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# Ngozi Retires

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and laughter, stories and personal reminiscences and speeches. Here are some excerpts from those tributes:

## Ken Peeples (Excerpt)

*“For me, Ngozi has been a wonderful supervisor, a role model and a good friend.”*

“When Ngozi called me to her office and said ‘Ken, I’m retiring,’ I was truly surprised, in fact, I was shocked. We had casually talked about retirement once or twice in recent years, but it always seemed to be something in the distant future. I guess I knew I would hear it from her one day, but I was hoping it would be after I had retired. Nevertheless, I am happy that Ngozi is retiring on her own terms, is in good health and will now have the leisure time to pursue her own special interests and projects.

It has been my privilege to serve as Ngozi’s deputy for over twenty years. For me, Ngozi has been a wonderful supervisor, a role model and a good friend. In 1976, I was hired as a reference librarian. My previous experience was in a public library and I had never taught in a classroom. Ngozi, who was Chief Librarian was generous in sharing her knowledge and expertise with me. With Ngozi’s support and direction, I developed my teaching skills and became coordinator of the instruction program and reference services.

As a dynamic administrator, Ngozi had many responsibilities, interests and concerns. Whether it was the budget, staffing, College committee assignments, library space concerns or CUNY-wide matters, Ngozi always would remind us that we were here to serve our students.”

## Jane Devine

*“Those of us who work in the Library will tell you that Ngozi’s imprint is all around us.”*

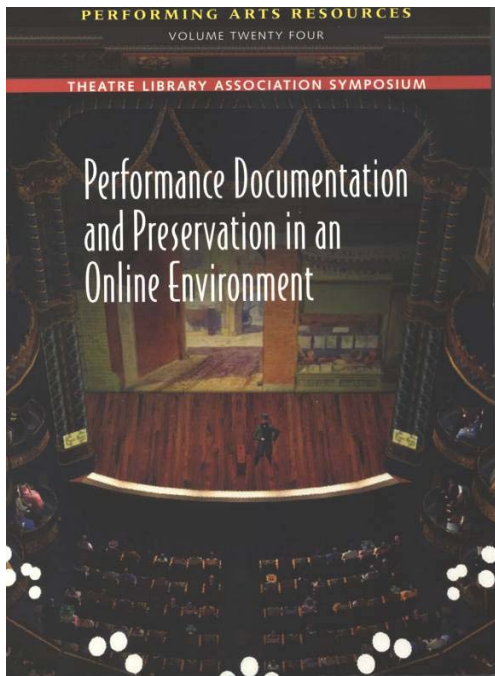
“First, let me say how glad I am that so many of you are here to help us celebrate Ngozi’s 33 years at LaGuardia. I’ve been here only the last 10 years. I know that many of you have been here far longer and some of you were here at the beginning or very near the beginning of the College. You’re the ones that built this college and Ngozi helped by building its Library and all its services.

Those of us who work in the Library will tell you that Ngozi’s imprint is all around us. It’s in the care and attention that we give our students, it’s in our teaching and it’s in our participation in the College’s activities. And for many of us, to some extent it will always be Ngozi’s Library.

Recently, when I started telling my friends outside the College, and even a few in the College, that I would be Acting Chair for a while, I started getting Donald Trump and the Apprentice type of jokes—you know, things about the board room and don’t forget to tell them that they’re fired. And that was fun, but I found myself getting a little defensive about it. I wanted to tell them that there were better forms of leadership than what you see on a show that expects most people to fail.

We at the Library have been the beneficiaries of a style of leadership that only fosters success. And it has helped us all accomplish a great many things. Even when Ngozi would ask us to do something that we would never have volunteered to do, never saw ourselves as doing, never thought we could do, we found we could be successful.

## Faculty Activities



Edited by **Kenneth Schlesinger** this book was published for the Performing Arts Resources series.

The Library welcomes **Louise Fluk** back from her sabbatical. Louise is chairing the College-wide Curriculum Committee while Cecilia Macheski is away on sabbatical.

**Kenneth Schlesinger** presented "Portable Laptop Wireless Classroom: Innovation, Flexibility and Pedagogy" at the Consortium of College and University Media Centers (CCUMC) Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. His article, "Documenting the Disappearing: NYU Fales Library's Countdown Collection" appeared in *Metropolitan Archivist*. Kenneth was elected Vice President of Theatre Library Association's Executive Board, and served as Chair of the Archivists Roundtable of Metropolitan New York's Awards Committee. He is President of the Library Association of the City University of New York (LACUNY) for 2004-2005.

**Remi Castonguay** is a member of the Dessoff Choir which gave several concerts in New York City during the holiday season. Remi is co-Chairing the new College Web Oversight Committee with **Steven Ovadia**. He is serving on the LACUNY Institute Planning Committee.

**Marie C. Spina** has won a second EDIT Grant for her Short Takes on Literature program. Participants in the program this year may win certificates and books as an acknowledgement of their effort. Marie attended the New York College and Research Library Seminar on December 27. The topic of scholarly communication and open access was discussed. She is serving as co-Chair of the LACUNY Archives and Special Collections Roundtable.

**Paul Abruzzo** received an acknowledgement for his research contribution to Howard Zinn's new book *Voices of the People's History of the United States* (Seven Stories Press, 2004.) Paul attended METRO's November 16, Bibliographic Instruction Special Interest Group session on "Graduate Information Literacy." He is helping to form a new LACUNY Reference Roundtable and will serve as its Chair.

**Dawn Amsberry** is a reviewer for *Choice Magazine*, her latest review was published in the December issue on the book *Deliberate Conflict: Argument, Political Theory and Composition Classes*. Dawn represents the Library on the LACUNY Professional Development Committee.

**Scott White** is the co-Chair for the 2005 Library Association of the City of New York (LACUNY) Institute. The Institute, titled "Scholarly Publishing and Open Access: Payers and Players," will focus on issues of access to academic research. Scott is also teaching as an adjunct at John Jay College. His course is called "Justice Planning and Policy Analysis."

**Steven Ovadia** gave a presentation on "Chat" for Professor Michael Miller's "Digital Libraries" class at the Pratt School of Information and Library Sciences. He has had a review article accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Library and Information Services in Distance Education*. Steve is co-Chairing the College Web Oversight Committee with **Remi Castonguay**. He is developing the website for the 2005 LACUNY Institute.

**Alexandra Rojas** will team with **Charles Keyes** for a presentation on the Library's information literacy program at Baruch's Conference on Information Literacy in March. She is serving on the LACUNY Institute Planning Committee.

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## Early Childhood Learning Center and Library Program

By Dawn Amsberry and Alexandra Rojas

During this past summer, members of the Library staff got together to develop an on-going program for the Early Childhood Learning Center. The program started with the purchase of 200 children's books which were selected with the help of Heather Brown, Associate Director of ECLC. The new collection of books represents classic and award winning titles like Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* and Mordicai Gerstein's *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*.

The collection was placed on special display shelving in the Library and an official ribbon cutting ceremony took place on October 5, with the help of the ECLC's family of children, parents and teachers. The celebration included singing, cookies and milk as well as introducing the new collection. Finally, a program of story readings was inaugurated on October 13. Each week a small group of children will visit the Library for a story reading provided by Library volunteers.

The Library always hopes to serve the whole LaGuardia community and has long maintained a collection of children's books for parents to borrow or use to amuse their children while visiting the Library. This new program not only continues that tradition with a new collection of books but actively furthers the Library's hope to foster early literacy. The books will also serve LaGuardia students studying children's literature.

If you have any interest in the program or would like to volunteer for a story reading, please contact Alex Rojas or Dawn Amsberry.

Children from the Early Childhood Learning Center visit the Library ,



## Faculty Publication Ends Run

by Ken Peeples



After twenty-five years of publication, *Community Review*, faculty journal for CUNY community colleges, has been forced to cease publication. The last issue, Volume XVIII, 2004, was published early last year.

*Community Review* was a general interest publication which focused on academic issues of particular interest to community college faculty. I began my affiliation in 1979 as book review editor. In 1986, I was invited to serve as editor-in-chief and remained in that position until the journal's demise. Faculty unfamiliar with the journal will find back issues of *Community Review* in the Library's periodical collection.

## 2004 Honors Night Awards

### Research Review Competition

The following 2003-04 Research Review Competition winners received an award and recognition for their academic achievement at LaGuardia's 2004 Honors Night program on September 14th:

First Place: Pearlie Singh    ENG 102—Professor Eleanor Tignor

Second Place: Yukari Seki    ENG 101—Professor Daniel Lynch

Dmitry Zakrevshi    ENG 101—Professor Ellen Czuchlewski

Third Place: Ginger Albertson    ENG 103—Professor Leonard Vogt and HUC 130 -

Professor Louis Lucca

Thanks to all of the classroom instructors who encouraged their students to submit research papers! Students and faculty who want to learn more about this competition should contact Clementine Lewis (clement@lagcc.cuny.edu). Thanks to the other members of the Research Review Panel: Fredesvinda Dura, Terence Julien, Sally Mettler, Marie Spina and Zhang Yu. The deadline for the 2004-05 Research Review Competition is July 9, 2005.

### LRC Incentive Award

The Library offers a three-credit course, LRC 102: Information Strategies, during Fall I and Spring I. Students who excel in this course and serve as role models for their classmates receive the LRC Incentive Award. At Honors Night, the following five students received this award:

Ataoulaye F. Bah—Business Administration

Ayesha Blackman—Accounting

Doreen A. Corbett—Business Administration

Sandra L. Rios—New Media Technology

Chi Chung Yeung—Liberal Arts: Social Science and Humanities

For additional information about LRC 102, please visit the Library website at <[www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/lrc/lrc102.htm](http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/lrc/lrc102.htm)>.

### Bookstore Humanitarian Award

Two of the four students receiving the LaGuardia Community College Bookstore Humanitarian Award at Honors Night were recognized for their outstanding service to the Library.

Islam Aminul—Media Services

Nariusz Monasterski—Institutional Archives

This is a monetary award, which is donated by Barnes & Noble bookstore.

### Faculty Activities

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**Ida Bazan**, a member of the Library's Access Services Department graduated from Long Island University last Spring. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in History.

**Charles Keyes** was accepted into the 2004-2005

DFL seminar where he has been working to forge a collaborative effort with other faculty to examine how class research assignments can be structured to raise student consciousness of requisite research skills. He was accepted into the MA program in International Relations at City College.

# Ngozi Retires

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We were successful and could do these things because we always had guidance and mentoring available to us through Ngozi's open door and because we were always encouraged to help one another and to realize that we could gain success through collaborative efforts. That kind of leadership is not a given. That kind of leadership is a gift and should be valued. On behalf of my colleagues I want to especially thank Ngozi for that gift.

The Library will certainly miss Ngozi. But you can depend on us, we will be keeping Ngozi's Library ALIVE."

## Kenneth Schlesinger (Excerpt)

"After 33 years at LaGuardia, Ngozi is the Library Media Resources Center, the embodiment of our *Tradition of Innovation*. Most of the Library's unique features and accomplishments are attributable to Ngozi:

- More than any other CUNY Library, LaGuardia's is fully integrated into every program and activity on campus
- Our focus on *Reference*—students from Baruch and Hunter visit our desk because they know the depth and commitment of service
- Instruction classes tailored to the individual assignment
- The Library's three-credit research course—the only one offered by a CUNY community college—which truly makes library faculty *teaching* faculty
- New course proposals signed off on by the Library and Media faculty for instructional materials and information literacy, a rarity within CUNY
- Most notably: the academic achievements of LaGuardia students who transfer to senior colleges

I've never had a boss who was simultaneously supportive and challenging. While you knew your activities would be supported, Ngozi constantly pushed you to higher levels of *exhaustion*—I mean achievement! A dozen annual goals was not unheard of. Ngozi always kept you on your toes—she'd be three steps ahead. An example would be when I told her 'we need to wire the Library's Classroom for video conferencing,' and she responded 'Yes! - and our Conference Room and the Media Lab.' This is how her mind works."



## Notes from the Units:

### Electronic Resources - AccessScience by Jane Devine

The Library added **AccessScience** to its electronic resources last spring with the help of Student Technology Fee money from the IT Division. **AccessScience** fills a gap in the Library's database collection. It is a Science database but equally covers Mathematics, Computer and Information Technology, Environmental Science, Food Science and Medicine, even Psychology and Veterinary Science.

Students can use keyword searches to find material in this resource which is based on the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science or they can select topic areas. Each subject area includes articles and Study Guides that are especially designed to help students understand the topic. Study Guides are extensive resources that include references to additional related topics. They also include biographies of people important to the subject area, statistical information and links to useful websites.

The **AccessScience** database home page offers an "Image Gallery," science news articles, and a science dictionary for unfamiliar terms. The database updates material frequently and has already added content related to the tsunami disaster.

Please consider using this database for student assignments. If you have any questions concerning the scope of the database or how to use it, or would like a demonstration, please contact Jane Devine (ext.5415).

The logo for AccessScience, with "ACCESS" in red and "Science" in black.

### LaGuardia Faculty Publications

by Clementine Lewis

*LaGuardia Faculty Publications* is a bibliographic record of materials published by LaGuardia Faculty. The purpose of this publication is to profile the research and scholarly interests of faculty as expressed in their books, articles, conference proceedings, art work, technical reports, software, audiovisual materials and electronic publications. The Third Edition was published in the Fall of 2000 and covered the period 1968 to 2000. To review this document, please visit: < [www.lagcc.cuny.edu/professionaldev/fsrecogn.asp](http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/professionaldev/fsrecogn.asp)>.

The Fourth Edition will be available in Fall 2005 and will cover the period 1968 to 2005. Information about forthcoming publications in 2005 will also be included.

Faculty, staff and administrators are invited to submit data on their publications (e.g., books, articles, artwork, audiovisual materials, software and electronic publications) by Friday, April 8, 2005. Contributors will receive a complimentary copy. For more information and a submission form, please contact Professor Clementine Lewis at (718) 482-5428 or [clement@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:clement@lagcc.cuny.edu)



## New Library Course Offerings: LRC 103

by Charles Keyes

The Library will be offering two courses, which teach students research skills and help them to develop their critical/analytical abilities. The long time staple in the Library's effort to better prepare students for the more rigorous research environments of four-year colleges, LRC 102: Information Strategies, will be joined this coming Spring semester by a new, one-credit course, LRC 103: Internet Research Strategies. This new addition to our course offerings will give students an understanding of various types of available electronic resources and how to use them effectively for research needs. LRC 103 focuses primarily on electronic resources since nowadays most resources, including books, are accessible via the World Wide Web.

The continuing growth in the availability of online information sometimes makes it difficult for us to decide what to use to find the research materials we need. For students who quite often have to learn research inductively, being able to make necessary connections and find appropriate materials can be daunting. The library's homepage contains over 90 databases. Compounding the problem are numerous search engines, directories and other databases freely accessible on the Web, as well as the ongoing need to successfully locate authoritative information. Knowing what to search (choosing the right tool) is only the beginning of the process. Students must also learn how to develop search strategies and apply critical evaluation skills to analyzing and synthesizing this information.

Internet Research Strategies was developed by library faculty Marie Spina and Dawn Amsberry, in tandem with Louise Fluk, to help students articulate their information needs, gain an understanding of research, develop corresponding search strategies, and ultimately evaluate their resources. While the course works well alone, pairing LRC 103 can support development of critical thinking skills and the process of integrating research throughout the curriculum into valid assignments.

We will be offering five sections of LRC 103 including an Honors Pair with SCB 204: Fundamentals of Human Biology II as well as four sections of our three credit LRC 102 which also includes a pairing with ESL. For additional information about LRC: 102, LRC103 or how Library faculty can assist you with the development of your course research assignments, please contact Charles Keyes, x6018.

## Author Visits Short Takes Program

by Marie C. Spina

Author and editor, Jeffrey Paul Chan will read from and discuss his new novel, *Eat Everything Before You Die: A Chinaman in the Counter Culture* at the next *Short Takes on Literature* program on March 22, 2005. The event will take place in the Little Theater from 2:30 to 4:00. Mr. Chan is the editor of both *Aiiieeeee!: An Anthology of Asian American Writers* and *The Big Aiiieeeee: An Anthology of Chinese American and Japanese-American Literature*.

*Short Takes on Literature* is the Library's book discussion program for students and faculty, which meets each month. This is the first event in which a featured writer will visit the campus and take part in the program. Please invite students to participate. For more information, contact Marie C. Spina at x5434 or [mspina@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:mspina@lagcc.cuny.edu).