Library Notes

By Steven Ovadia, Web Services Librarian

Library College Laboratory Technician Eric Moy was waiting for the R train at 53rd Street in Brooklyn, much like he does every morning. But this October 19 morning would be like no other.

That morning Eric heard people on the platform calling for help: “Someone fell onto the track,” a straphanger called out.

Eric quickly made his way down the sparsely-populated platform and looked down onto the tracks to see a woman laying there.

“She was open but her legs were shaking and she couldn't move,” Eric recalled. “I could see the train was coming. It was getting really close.”

Before he even realized what he was doing, Eric was down on the tracks with the woman. “There was no time to think,” he said.

Eric tried to lift the woman off of the tracks, but she was too heavy. Soon, he was joined by another young man, who helped Eric lift the woman into the waiting arms of the other passengers waiting on the platform.

Once the woman was safely off of the tracks, Eric climbed to safety. “I figured I could always jump to the other [Brooklyn-bound] track if the train came.”

Luckily, it didn't come to that. Medics came and helped the woman, who told them she had gotten dizzy before falling onto the tracks.

Eric hopped on the next train and came to work, finally ready to begin his day.
Librarians on the Air at LaGuardia Web Radio

By Marie Cimino Spina, Institutional Archivist

Beginning last Spring, WLGCC LaGuardia Web Radio welcomed three Librarians into the studio.

Last April, Coordinator of Instructional Resources and Training Remi Castonguay began airing the “The Classical Fugue.” Every Thursday at 1 PM, Remi shares his love of Western Classical music with a program featuring everything from troubadour music to symphonies. He often discusses the life and times of the featured composer as he shares his knowledge of music.

Reference Librarian Alexandra Rojas spins a different beat during her weekly Rock N Punk Power Hour that started in May 2006. Every Monday at 10 AM, Alex plays the best of the New York music scene. Alexandra calls the show “a wake-up call to explore early and current rock music including glam, punk, new wave, garage.”

Marie Cimino Spina started a new talk show in September, heard Tuesdays at 11 AM. Taking a page from her Short Takes on Literature program, Short Takes Story Hour offers information on each author whose story is read. The stories are usually favorites of Short Takes On Literature participants or the next selection being discussed in the Short Takes on Literature sessions. Marie also throws in a little music. From week to week, you’ll hear Bach, Otis Redding, Willie Nelson, Telemann, Handel, and Afro Pop. Keeping with the many cultures around the campus, the stories are often translations of classic and modern literature from around the world.

Alex and Marie are planning interviews with artists and authors from on and off campus and for future programs.

The LaGuardia Web Radio Librarians wish to thank Hashim Abdul and Jeffrey Kaz Batts for all of their help getting their shows online each week.

The Schedule of Librarians on the Air

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Show Name</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rock N Punk Power Hour</td>
<td>Mondays, 10-11 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Takes Story Hour</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 11 AM-noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classical Fugue</td>
<td>Thursdays, 1-2 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Heard at: www.lagcc.cuny.edu/webradio

---

Librarians on the Air

by Marie Cimino Spina

Library Awards

by Clementine Lewis

Exploring Library Service in Vietnam

by Kenneth Schlesinger

Library Assessment Conference

by Louise Fluk

French Reading Club

by Francine Egger-Sider

New Orleans: 10 Months Later

by Clifton Seale

A (Partial) Culinary Tour of Japan

by Kaywan Chan
Faculty and Staff Highlights

Serials Librarian Jean Boggs and CUNY Office Assistant Maritza Acero attended the CUNY Serials Roundtable Fall meeting at the CUNY Office of Library Services October 4, 2006. Susan O'Leary provided training on EBSCONET, the online system the Library uses to manage its print subscriptions.


Francine Egger-Sider, Louise Fluk, and Alexandra Rojas presented “The Fourth ‘R’: Information Literacy in Institutional Assessment” at the ARL-sponsored conference “Library Assessment Conference: Building Effective, Sustainable, Practical Assessment.” The conference was held in Charlottesville, Virginia on September 25-27, 2006 (see article on page 6 for details).

Charles Keyes, Steven Ovadia, and Alexandra Rojas presented “The Roles of Wikis in the Classroom” at the Sussex Community College Fifth Annual Atlantic Regional Conference on Teaching, Learning and Student Support in Newton, New Jersey, October 20.

Steven Ovadia’s article, “The Need to Archive Blog Content” was published in Serials Librarian 51 (2006): 95-102.

Kenneth Schlesinger co-presented with Dawn Amsberry, Creating the Information Commons State of Mind: Campaigning for the Future, at LACUNY Institute 2006, Information Commons: Are We All Things to All People?, in May 2006. The following month he attended ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section’s Libraries, Archives, and Museums in the 21st Century: Intersecting Missions, Converging Futures at the University of Texas-Austin, supported by a LACUNY Professional Development Grant. In addition, he served as Chair of the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York's annual Awards Committee.

As a Fulbright Senior Specialist, Prof. Schlesinger visited Vietnam for six weeks this fall, consulting with three academic libraries (see article on page 5 for details). He was recently promoted to Professor.

The Best of the Best: Library Awards

By Clementine Lewis, Interlibrary Loan Librarian

For the past 27 years, the Library Media Research Center has sponsored a Research Review Competition to encourage and support research efforts at the College. Students who receive a grade of “A” on a research paper written for a course at LaGuardia during a current academic year may submit the paper into the competition. Faculty Council co-sponsors this event and provides U. S. Savings Bonds for all of the winners!

The awards for the competition are listed below:

- All participants receive a Certificate of Participation.
- The First Place Winner receives a $100 U. S. Savings Bond, an Outstanding Academic Achievement Certificate and an iPod Shuffle.
- The Second Place Winner receives a $75 U. S. Savings Bond and an Outstanding Academic Achievement Certificate.
- The Third Place Winner receives a $50 U. S. Savings Bond and an Outstanding Academic Achievement Certificate.

The winners are invited to attend the Honors Night Ceremony to receive their awards.

Students and faculty who want to learn more about the competition may contact a member of the Research Review Panel: Terence Julien, Clementine Lewis, Marie Spina, Sally Mettler, and Zhang Yu.

You may also review the flyer posted at http://laguardia.edu/library/competition. The deadline for the 2006-07 Research Review Competition is July 9, 2007.

The following 2005-06 Research Review Competition winners received an award and recognition for their academic achievement at LaGuardia's 2006 Honors Night Program on September 12th:

First Place: Annette Velella
ENG 102 - Prof. Neddy McMills

Second Place: Kaori Ishikura
ENG 104 - Prof. Marian Arkin

Third Place: Bertrand Toulouse
ENG 101 - Prof. David Styler

Zalewska-Zuber
ENG 101 - Prof. Ellen Czuchlewski

Honorable Mention: Catherine Deane
ENG 101 - Prof. Diane Tomko

Jin Yee Ching
ENG 101 - Prof. Ellen Czuchlewski

(Continued on page 9)
Marching Toward Tenure
Using JSTOR and Project Muse for Scholarly Research

By Ed Keane, Electronic Resources Librarian

Given everyone’s busy schedules at LaGuardia, it can be difficult to make time to conduct the kind of research that’s necessary to get an article or book published. However, using the Library’s electronic databases offers researchers the convenience of remote access and a variety of resources in the academic disciplines. There are more than 20,000 different periodical titles in the Library’s databases and users can access them from on and off campus. Some of these titles can be found in databases many of us are familiar with such as EBSCOhost or LexisNexis. Equally useful, though perhaps not as well-known, are not-for-profit subscription databases like JSTOR, and Project MUSE.


JSTOR is also a not-for-profit organization with a stated mission to maintain a reliable archive of scholarly journals, and to provide access to these journals. Originally conceived as a project at The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, JSTOR began as a solution to the dilemma faced by library personnel who had to choose between expanding storage space or expunging journals from the shelves.

Given it’s primary mission as an alternative to physical storage space, it’s important to note the journals in JSTOR are not current. There is a gap, typically from one to five years, between the most recently published journal issue and the back issues available in JSTOR. The journals archived in JSTOR cover a spectrum of subjects, including African American Studies, Feminist and Women’s Studies, Middle East Studies, Public Policy Administration and Statistics. Right now, LaGuardia Library users have access to about 300 journals in JSTOR.

Twenty-five titles common to both databases can be searched and browsed from the convenience of either interface, providing users with the full run of those issues.

Accessing JSTOR and Project Muse

To access JSTOR or Project Muse, click the Online Research Journals link on our home page, and then click Full Text Articles.
For more information about Project MUSE, JSTOR or any other of LaGuardia’s electronic resources, contact Steven Ovadia, Web Services Librarian, X6022 or sovadia@lagcc.cuny.edu.
Exploring Library Service in Vietnam

By Kenneth Schlesinger, Director of Media Services

During Fall 2006, I went to Vietnam for six weeks as a Fulbright Senior Specialist, consulting on strategic planning and international copyright law at three university libraries. It was an eye opening and life changing experience.

International Library Conference

My residency opened with a two-day library conference in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnamese Libraries: Integration and Development. Given its historical and geographic divisions, Vietnam has maintained two separate library associations for the north and south. The Ministry of Culture and Information has given approval to formally merge the two organizations this fall, so much of the conference consisted of discussions about proposed structure, membership, and significant functions. This is an exciting time for Vietnamese libraries, which have been isolated from the West, but are now adopting international standards. The Dewey book cataloging system will be adopted by libraries nationwide as of next spring, in conjunction with MARC 21 for machine-readable records, as well as Dublin Core for digital metadata.

I was on the roster with two other international guests from the United States: Leslie Burger, President of the American Library Association, who provided excellent instructions about forming a national library association, and Professor Patricia Oyler of Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science, an expert on Vietnamese libraries who has trained over two dozen Vietnamese librarians in Boston for leadership roles in their home libraries. My role was as a copyright specialist. I offered three presentations: International Copyright Law and Intellectual Property, Fair Use and Obtaining Permission. While Vietnam is poised to join the World Trade Organization, it has no perceptible copyright law, and is notorious for wide distribution of pirated books and DVDs. My presentations went over fairly well – audience members asked thoughtful questions, and I led an extended discussion on accessibility of textbooks and website construction protocol.

Overall, this was an inspiring experience to witness the intelligence of Vietnamese librarians, as well as their passionate commitment to the profession. Our hosts and conference attendees provided welcoming hospitality.

Nha Trang University

My next stop was Nha Trang, a beautiful seaside resort often compared to Hawaii. Nha Trang University (formerly Nha Trang Fisheries University) is a special training institute for nearly 800 students in the fisheries and aquaculture industries. The university library, which opened in 2003, is an airy and spacious building located on top of a hill, with splendid surrounding views. It offers excellent workspace for students, as well as ample computer facilities, but has been limited by budget in building appropriate print and electronic collections to support this specialized profession.

Library Director Dr. Thach requested training for library staff in copyright and strategic planning. Library staff had never engaged in strategic planning as a group process before – in general, Vietnamese librarians do not do group work. After some initial resistance and discomfort, they launched into team process fairly easily, and quickly had lively and contentious discussions. After a day of intensive work, they devised a rough draft of working goals. We further refined this list by including action planning (breaking down each into incremental tasks), as well as indicating obstacles and resources in their implementation.

I spent two days on copyright, encompassing my previous PowerPoint presentations, but also including an introductory overview. My emphasis was to incorporate practical scenarios for discussion in order to make the theory more tangible and related to daily operations. The librarians responded enthusiastically to these discussions.

The final day I offered a customer service workshop, including role playing to address specific problems recently encountered by librarians. Needless to say, they had never participated in exercises like these. Lastly, I gave an overview of LaGuardia Community College’s library, mostly by demonstrating the resources of our interactive website. I also gave them the opportunity to ask further questions about U.S. library operations.

University of Architecture – Ho Chi Minh City

My longest residency was for three weeks at this well-respected university in Saigon. Characteristic of architec-

(Continued on page 7)
LaGuardia Contributions to a National Library Assessment Conference

By Louise Fluk, Instructional Services Librarian

LaGuardia librarians were active participants in the first biennial conference of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) on real-world library assessment. Held in Charlottesville, Virginia, September 25-27, 2006, the conference was subtitled “Building Effective, Sustainable, Practical Assessment” because it focused on the nuts and bolts of library participation in the higher education outcomes assessment movement. The Association of Research Libraries organized the conference to build on the success of “Making Library Assessment Work,” a two-year project in which assessment experts Steve Hiller (University of Washington Libraries) and Jim Self (University of Virginia Libraries) traveled nation-wide consulting with ARL member libraries to help them “develop sustainable assessment efforts that demonstrate the library’s contributions to teaching, learning, and research” http://www.arl.org/arli/Pr/espasessoct06.html. The conference was an attempt to consolidate a hard-won knowledge base and create a library assessment community to further the effort.

Conference organizers accepted two proposals made by LaGuardia faculty: Francine Egger-Sider, Louise Fluk, and Alexandra Rojas gave a paper entitled “The Fourth ‘R’: Information Literacy in Institutional Assessment,” and Remi Castonguay and Alexandra Rojas presented a poster session on “Assessing Library Instruction with Experimental Designs,” originally developed by Remi Castonguay and Scott White. The paper was the only one given at the conference by community college faculty; the poster session was one of only two. Just five of the 108 academic institutions at the conference were community colleges.

In “The Fourth ‘R’,” LaGuardia Library faculty presented the College’s information literacy (IL) rubric and how it fits into LaGuardia’s Middle States-mandated outcomes assessment plan. Built upon the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education of the Association of College and Research Libraries, LaGuardia’s IL rubric defines six levels of competence for each of three learning outcomes and is designed to be applied to research papers, narrative of research, and citations. The presentation stressed the importance of faculty collaboration to assign and collect appropriate student work, especially research narratives; the use of ePortfolios to store student work for assessment purposes; and the need for professional development of faculty to promote and assess student IL. Such professional development is currently under way at LaGuardia in the BILD seminar – Building Information Literacy in the Disciplines. It is envisioned that, eventually, all students will create ePortfolios containing enough research-based work to allow trained faculty from across the College to apply the rubric to test IL skills of students in various cohorts (by program, by year, by credits completed, etc.), arriving at institutional assessment of IL as a core competency. The paper submitted in connection with this presentation will appear in the published proceedings of the Conference; the PowerPoint is posted at http://www.arl.org/stats/laconf/pres/Fluk.ppt.

In the poster session on “Assessing Library Instruction with Experimental Designs,” LaGuardia Library faculty discussed two assessment efforts. The first was a study of the usability of the Library’s website and how Library instruction affects the effectiveness with which students navigate the site. The second was a longitudinal comparison of students who took a credit-bearing library course in a cluster with students who took a similar cluster without the library course; the study will test the hypothesis that library instruction affects positively student performance, retention, transfer and graduation rates.

Although both of LaGuardia’s contributions to the conference involved IL assessment LaGuardia faculty also attended sessions that ran the gamut of assessment issues and will help the Library in the conduct of its Periodic Program Review this year and continuing efforts in the future. Concurrent presentations and poster sessions covered assessment of services, spaces, information commons, websites, collections, digital resources, customer and staff satisfaction, organizational climate and staff effectiveness; a variety of assessment tools; and how to create a “culture of assessment” on campus. The plenary sessions featured excellent keynote speakers, higher education administrators and researchers, who drew the broader picture, the “why” of assessment to complement the nitty-gritty of “how-to.” And if “how-to” sessions, though professionally valuable, provided less-than-scintillating entertainment, the charm of Charlottesville, home to Thomas Jefferson’s magnificent University of Virginia, and the hospitality of the organizers created a pleasant and productive atmosphere. The organizers promised comparable professional stimulation and amenities at the second conference, scheduled for Seattle in July 2008.
ture schools, the campus is of brutalist design. The library is a large, open space with plenty of tables for student work. All books are on reserve and do not leave the library. Textbooks circulate for one semester.

University of Architecture received a major grant from the World Bank to purchase online databases related to architecture, so I spent my first few days demonstrating architectural databases for staff training and evaluation. Next I developed a Marketing PowerPoint presentation since staff is interested in extending efforts to promote library services. I ended this with the Customer Service workshop. Further training included international coding of journals, in conjunction with EBSCOhost and LexisNexis database searching demonstrations. In the context of international cooperation of libraries, I recommended appropriate professional associations the library should join.

During the second week, I designed a workshop on the Reference Interview. As part of its redesign, the library plans to incorporate a central Reference Desk. Library staff needed training in how to offer these specialized services. This concluded with an exercise where staff took turns playing students and faculty in a reference encounter. In addition, I presented a workshop on Information Literacy, which included a specific exercise on how to evaluate records in EBSCOhost.

Library Director Nguyen Dang Ha had an ambitious fundraising schedule. We investigated potential support from UNESCO, then decided our best approach was to request funds to purchase additional English language art and architecture books for the library. We submitted a request letter to the Delmas Foundation, and I forwarded a proposal to Strand Book Store about the possibility of donating duplicate art titles to Vietnam.

The final week concentrated on professional development and external relations. We reviewed the websites of appropriate professional associations such as Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS) and Association of Architecture School Librarians (AASL). I initiated e-mail contact with a number of architecture library directors at City College, Columbia, and Yale. Further, we investigated potential scholarship funds to support librarian training overseas. I closed with a presentation on Library Management.

This residency, however, was not without its challenges. We experienced a number of power outages during Saigon’s rainy season. Internet service went down at least once a day, which frustrated ongoing attempts at research and training demonstrations. To his credit, Ha promotes English learning among his staff—they usually spend the first half hour of the morning speaking the language together. Staff made a valiant effort to communicate in English with me. I had to keep reminding myself to slow down my speaking in order to foster comprehension. Given the smaller training group of six, it took them longer to feel comfortable about participating in interactive exercises.

Ha was particularly interested in my professional assessment of his library services. I submitted a formal list of recommendations to him, including the need to incorporate the lecturer books into the general collection, convert books from Reserve to circulation status, and transform multiple textbook purchases for student loan to selected Reserve copies. As part of our agreement, a number of these were incorporated into the library’s overall strategic plan.

Dalat University

My final week I flew to Dalat to provide three days of intensive library staff training. Dalat is a renowned mountain resort dating from the French colonial era, cherished for its cool weather and romantic atmosphere. Dalat University— which has specialties in natural sciences and foreign languages and literature— is considered one of the finest in the country. The new library, which opened in 2005, has cavernous open spaces and plenty of natural light, but was designed for a closed stack model. While it boasts what is considered a large research collection (150,000 books) in Vietnam, the two reading rooms split the collection, creating access difficulties for students. However, Dalat circulates its books and recently opened a Reference Desk, a tribute to the planning of Vice Director Thai Thi Thanh Thuy, who earned her M.L.S. at Simmons College in Boston.

Dalat University is known for its English language programs, and several of the librarians spoke the language fairly well, which sparked lively discussion and promoted socializing. The workshops were fun and interactive. Coming at the end of my residency, they could benefit from the nine presentations I developed. The first morning I offered Customer Service and Marketing to a group of thirty, including library staff and representatives from local colleges. Afternoons were conducted seminar-style with a smaller group of senior staff. The first day we discussed the Reference Interview, which worked successfully as an interactive exercise.

The second day concentrated on database searching and evaluation of information resources. The afternoon continued these themes with Information Literacy and ethical uses of information, including copyright fair use and permissions. The final day examined International Cooperation, with a lively discussion about the new national library association. After lunch we considered Library Management and Strategic Planning, appended with my own needs assessment. We accomplished two weeks’ worth of workshops in three days. Even though it was the end of my stay, I think I wore them out!

Conclusions

I have always wanted to work in Vietnam, particularly reading about it as a highly literate society which values books and reading. Embarking on this experience, I knew there would be frustrations and limitations to what I could reasonably expect to accomplish in a six-week period. Still, it was fascinating to be exposed to an entirely different culture—and I was grateful for this clearly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

As I’ve mentioned, the strength of Vietnamese libraries is the librarians themselves: smart, energetic, and open to new ways of improving their services. I had so much respect for their commitment to intellectually comprehend the universe of library service. Although there are problems that I could not possibly address—under funding and hierarchical management—Vietnamese libraries appear ready to embrace open access to information and a customer-centered ethic—hallmarks of library service in the West. Concomitantly, there remain serious intellectual property issues that must be reinforced in librarian training.

Finally—as in so many of these situations—I learned just as much from my clients as they did from me. This ultimately marks an auspicious beginning of an exciting dialogue and exchange between libraries in Vietnam and the United States.
CUNY Libraries Inter-Campus Services [CLICS]

Need a book from the Queens College Library? Need another one from Lehman?

Use CLICS: A new book delivery service brought to you by the CUNY Libraries.

How it works:

If you are an undergraduate student, faculty or staff member at LaGuardia Community College and a book you need is not available in LaGuardia’s collection, you may request this book from another CUNY library.

Please follow the steps listed below to place a Hold in the CUNY+ Catalog to obtain a book from another CUNY Library:

1. Click Select all CUNY Libraries

2. Search for your book

3. When you find it, click a library name and then click on 2. Request to place a hold for the book.

4. Log into My Account using the barcode on your CUNY I.D. Card and use it as your password

5. Select LaGuardia from the drop-down menu as the delivery point (or select another college, if you’d like to pick it up from another CUNY library)

6. Click the End Session link at the top to log out of CUNY+ . When the book is available at LaGuardia’s Circulation Desk, an email will be sent to your LaGuardia email account.

7. If you want to delete the hold, click My Account at the top of the screen. Under Hold Requests, click on the number of the request and click delete at the bottom of the screen.

8. To check the status of a hold, click My Account at the top of the screen.

It's that simple!

For additional information, please visit the Library’s website at http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/clics/.
Marta Walinska  
ENG 101 - Prof. Heidi Johnsen

Thanks to all of the classroom instructors who submitted research papers for their students and encouraged their students to submit!

LRC Incentive Award

The LRC 102 and LRC 103 Incentive Award is given to students who serve as a role model in classes and demonstrate great scholarship in the LRC 102: Information Strategies and LRC 103: Internet Research Strategies courses.

At the Honors Night Program on September 12th, the following students received the LRC Incentive Award:

- Ruth L. Alberry - Practical Nursing
- Vera Benjamin - Liberal Arts: Social Science & Humanities
- Joseph Carson - Liberal Arts: Media Studies
- Hye J. Choi - Nursing
- Hyunsook Choi - Physical Therapist Assistant
- Sapphire Y. El - Liberal Arts: Social Science & Humanities
- Joan I. Erhunmwunsee - Nursing
- Joseph W. Joseph-Charles - Practical Nursing
- Jia Lu - Business Management
- Jennifer E. Martinez - Human Services: Mental Health
- Odalys T. Martinez - Nursing
- Yelizaveta V. Sanchuk - Teacher Education/Sec. Ed.
- Maria Ventura - Liberal Arts: Social Science & Humanities
- Sandra S. Yi - Nursing

For additional information about LRC 102 and LRC 103, please visit the Library's web site at http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/lrc/lrc.htm.

Bookstore Humanitarian Award

Muhammad S. Yousaf was recognized for his outstanding service in the Library’s open computer lab. He was one of four recipients who received the LaGuardia Community College Bookstore Humanitarian Award on September 12.

Cercle de Lecture Francophone = French Reading Club

By Francine Egger-Sider, Coordinator, Technical Services

Two librarians, Rémi Castonguay and Francine Egger-Sider, started a French reading club about a year ago with the aim of promoting the use of the French language in an informal setting. Every semester we meet twice to discuss a book written in French. The titles read to date include “San feu ni lieu” by Fred Vargas, a French thriller; “La vie devant soi” by Emile Ajar, also known as Romain Gary, the story of a little French boy’s love for an older Jewish woman in Paris; “Le libraire de Kaboul,” a novelist’s recounting of her stay in Kaboul with a bookstore owner, Sultan Khan; “Le testament français d’Andrei Makine,” the life of a grandmother in Russia and France during the Great War, the October Revolution and after; and “Chercher le vent” by Guillaume Vigneault, a young French-Canadian novelist’s coming of age novel. The selection for our November meeting was a book entitled “Kiffe kiffe demain” by Faiza Guène, the story of a 15-year old raised by Algerian immigrant parents in Paris. As you can see, our net is wide in terms of reading selections. We welcome new members, faculty, staff, and students – join us in this very rewarding and relaxed endeavor. You may contact the co-chairs at rcastonguay@lagcc.cuny or fegger@lagcc.cuny.edu.

Do your students struggle with research?

Tell them about LRC102 and LRC103, the Library’s transferable Liberal Arts electives!

- **LRC102** is a three-credit course that focuses on the research process and the use of library and Web resources.
- **LRC103** is a one-credit course designed to help students with Internet-based research.

For more information on how these classes can help your students succeed, contact:

Charles Keyes, Instructional Services Librarian  
718-482-6018 or ckeyes@lagcc.cuny.edu.

---

Want to Know What’s New in the Library World?

Then check out the What’s New Library Blog. Learn what’s new in the LaGuardia Library and around the whole World Wide Web. To access it, visit: http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/blog/whatsnew.html.
Reference Librarian Clifton Seale returned to New Orleans, his hometown and the home of his family, in June 2006, just 10 months after Hurricane Katrina devastated the region. Below is a photo essay he composed on the trip. For more information on the impact of Katrina, search the Louisiana file in LexisNexis.

At the marina, many boats were just thrown up onto the road. It is not known whether their owners survived, escaped to another city, or just abandoned their boats where they were.

The X on the front door means that the house was searched for bodies and/or survivors. The zeroes mean none were found. The other numbers are codes for the National Guard.

This photo shows how high the water came up — and stayed.
**Review: Raconteurs**  
*By Alexandra Rojas, Reference Librarian*

*Broken Boy Soldiers*  
*Raconteurs*  
*V2 Records/Third Man*

The new Raconteurs album *Broken Boy Soldiers* is an interesting collaboration of the rhythm section of The Greenhornes, Jack White of The White Stripes, and producer-turned-musician Brendan Benson. Anyone familiar with the genius of Jack White would think that this would be a vehicle where he would take total control. This is not the case. The White Stripes are based in modern-day raw blues and The Greenhornes are based in roots rock. The Raconteurs are a wonderful combination of the two.

The opening track on the disc, “Steady As She Goes,” is definitely the catchiest of the songs on the album and is most suitable for airplay. Throughout the course of the disc we hear The Raconteurs celebrate the music of the classic rock groups The Who, The Beatles and Yes. Snippets of their influences appear in songs, just like a magic trick: now you hear it now you don’t. The lighter, less edgy tracks are left toward the end of the disc, the exception being the final track, a psychedelic blues number called “Blue Veins,” a definite highlight. The disc is fabulously paced—short and sweet at 33 minutes you are left wanting more. The Raconteurs are presently in the studio and new music is on the way. Until then, pick up this gem.

---

**A (Partial) Culinary Tour of Japan:**  
**Searching for Wasabi**  
*By Kaywan Chan, CUNY Administrative Assistant*

For years, I’ve been trying to get my hands on the elusive root known as the wasabi. Fresh wasabi is very hard to come by in the U.S. and if you’re lucky enough to find some, it usually costs $50-70 per pound. Because wasabi is one of the most difficult vegetables to grow, the genuine article can be very difficult to locate, even in its native country.

When I heard Japan has unusual ice cream flavors like crab, octopus, and chicken wing, I just had to seek them out and get a taste. Sadly, I didn’t find any of those, but I found a wasabi flavored one in Hakone. It tasted pretty much like the sushi condiment, but with a creamy mild sweetness. Surprisingly, it didn't burn my sinuses.

My sushi dinner in Osaka was made by a bona fide, licensed sushi chef. But alas, they had no fresh wasabi. They do have the same green paste made from reconstituted powder commonly found back home, though. The search for fresh wasabi continued.

In addition to rice and seafood, noodles are also enjoyed in Japan. My last meal before boarding the plane for home from Osaka was a plate of cold soba (buckwheat) noodles with inari (deep fried tofu bags stuffed with rice). From what I gleaned from observing the Japanese businessmen sitting at the next table, the soba noodles are eaten by dunking them in a dashi-based soy sauce and scallion mixture, and then vigorously slurped up.

At last, I finally found fresh wasabi! The root came as a condiment with my soba noodle lunch. The paste is made by grating the root on a sharkskin grater. It has a surprisingly mild flavor with a hint of sweetness and doesn’t have same searing burn of the powdered form.
The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States

This award-winning encyclopedia has been described as a “landmark scholarly work.” It brings together the diverse experiences of Latinos and Latinas from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Central America, South America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. There are over 900 entries ranging in length from 500 to 7500 words. Each entry has a bibliography and cross-references signed by an author. Topics covered include ethnicity, immigration, NAFTA, migrant workers, santeria, sustainable development and many more.

A fine starting point for students doing research on Latin American topics.

Feminism in Literature: A Gale Critical Companion
Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2005 REF PN471 .F43

This comprehensive encyclopedia “explores the history of women and feminism throughout literature from classical antiquity to modern times.” Among the topics covered are women’s social roles in ancient civilization, women’s suffrage movement, women writers of the “Lost Generation,” lesbian literature and modern feminist theory and scholarship. There are also detailed analysis of prominent women authors including Sappho, Phillis Wheatley, Jane Austen, Kate Chopin, Isabelle Allende, Maya Angelou and Sandra Cisneros to name a few.

A great reference source for beginning research on feminism, women and literature.

Intimate Strangers (2004)
Director: Patrice Leconte

I was introduced to the work of French director, Patrice Leconte by a discerning cinephile friend who insisted I see The Man on the Train. This film with its somber atmosphere, witty dialogue and psychological edge was an entertaining and challenging film experience. With my appetite whetted, I was anxious to see Intimate Strangers (2004), a later film by the noted filmmaker. He did not disappoint.

The movie begins when a young woman, Anna (Sandrine Bonnaire) walks into the office of William (Fabrice Luchini), a tax accountant and proceeds to pour out the details of her dysfunctional marriage. It seems Anna has stumbled into the wrong office. William who is intrigued by this attractive, mysterious woman does not inform her that he is not a psychiatrist and listens sympathetically to her tale of woe. He dutifully makes an appointment with her for another session.

In this opening scene, a suspenseful, humorous and poignant adventure unfolds about the lives of two lonely people brought together by a case of mistaken identity.

William leads an insular life having inherited the office of his father, including the secretary who plays a wryly comic role in displaying her dislike of Anna. His latest girlfriend left him for an outgoing bodybuilder who is quite unlike William. He still confides in her and she advises him to tell Anna his true identity. Anna eventually learns the truth, but appears not to mind her therapy sessions with William who is fascinated by Anna and her frank confessions. They develop a curious attraction. Following her suggestions, he changes a picture in his office, wears brighter ties and generally appears uplifted. Anna seems to be more relaxed and charming as their sessions continue. In one very funny scene, William is seen alone in his apartment dancing to Wilson Pickett’s “In the Midnight Hour.” There is an unusual visit from Anna’s husband who has a surprising request.

When Anna reaches the point where she feels she no longer needs William’s therapy sessions, a number of questions arise. Will Anna return to her husband? How will this affect William? Will they ever see each other again? Leconte, in a subtle way, manages to bring together these seemingly opposite personalities and arouses our interest so that we care about what happens to this “odd couple.” I certainly look forward to seeing more of Leconte’s work including his latest film entitled Mon Meilleur Ami (My Best Friend, 2006).

Want More Reviews?
See page 11 for a review of the new Raconteurs album, featuring Jack White of the White Stripes.