Introducing the New Chief Librarian, Prof. Scott White

By Steve Ovadia, Deputy Chief Librarian

Professor Scott White, new Chief Librarian and Chair of the Library department, knew how important the Library was to the LaGuardia community by the start of his second year.

"After the attacks on September 11, 2001, I knew we had to keep the Library open. As I walked around the Library, I saw people who were studying, trying to study, staring into space, shocked and upset," Professor White recalled. "The college was closing early, for obvious reasons, and internal conversations started about how best to proceed, because the Library was packed. It might have seemed crazy to everyone else in the room, but I argued that we should stay open for the people that didn't know where to go or what to do. Students were instinctively coming to the Library and I thought we should be open for them."

That day also taught Professor White about the importance of technology in students’ lives: “We stayed open until about 5 PM, and people started to file out as some communications returned and the transportation systems came back on line. I remember that as we were closing, a student was upset that she couldn’t use the computers because the Internet wasn’t working. I told her we would look into it, and that she should come back the next day, and our systems would be working. They were.”

That commitment to patrons and belief in the power of the Library has fueled Professor White’s time at LaGuardia, where he began as the head of Access Services in 2000. Growing up in Greenpoint, he was familiar with LaGuardia and its mission.

“I decided to move to CUNY because there was an opportunity to become a faculty member,” he said. “I knew of LaGuardia because many friends and family attended. In Greenpoint during the late 1970s and early 1980s, going to college wasn’t automatic, and anybody who went and got a degree, any degree, was celebrated. I remember being impressed when people said they were graduating, and being more impressed when they went further in their studies. When I had the chance to move to LaGuardia, I took it. How could I not?”

As head of Access Services from 2000 to 2011, Professor White ran a complex public service area, with a large full-time and part-time staff. In addition to keeping the circulation desk

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Welcome to New Library Staff

Terrance Neeley
CUNY Office Assistant, Periodicals Department

Terrance previously worked at Queensborough Community College as a College Assistant in the Adjunct Services department. She worked with elementary school children at Merrick Academy Charter School where she served as an Administrative Assistant. Prior to that, she worked as the Senior Case Manager with the American Cancer Society’s Healthy Women’s Partnership program in Queens. She currently serves as a volunteer for the New York City Correction Department and loves to play guitar for a gospel quartet group.

Jacqueline Fuentes
CUNY Office Assistant, Periodicals Department

Jacqueline is a new staff member to the Periodicals department at the Library. She completed her Bachelor’s degree in English Literature at Queens College and is now nearing completion of her Master’s degree at Queens College as well. She was formerly the Administrative Coordinator of the Kids College Program at Queensborough Community College and has worn many other hats in other fields. Her strongest interests, however, are in writing and education. She contributes music reviews and articles to websites from time to time. She is also interested in possibly publishing her own work of fiction in the future.
**CUNY Academic Works** is a new service of the CUNY Libraries dedicated to collecting and providing access to the research, scholarship and creative work of the City University of New York. **LaGuardia Community College has its own sub-site** (http://academicworks.cuny.edu/lg/) within Academic Works. In service to CUNY’s mission as a public university, content in Academic Works is freely available to all.

Academic Works provides for the preservation and dissemination of a full range of scholarship, including faculty research such as articles and conference presentations; educational materials; creative works such as poems, scores, and choreographic works; student works such as theses, dissertations, and prize papers; scholarly journals published by or associated with the University; and digitized archival documents from CUNY’s libraries and special collections. Included works are selected and deposited by the individual campus in consultation with the Office of Library Services.

**Submitting to CUNY Academic Works**

We invite current LaGuardia faculty, students, and staff to submit to Academic Works. This benefits you, your work and the local and global communities in which we live. Submit your scholarship to:

§ Increase the impact of your work, which will be searchable via search engines such as Google Scholar as well as CUNY Libraries’ OneSearch
§ Receive monthly emails telling you how often your work has been downloaded
§ Preserve and share your work in a single place
§ Share your work with students and scholars who can’t otherwise access it
§ Promote collaboration with colleagues at other CUNY campuses

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running, Access Services kept the shelves in order and moved books between CUNY campuses for the CUNY Libraries Inter-Campus Service (CLICS).

From 2011 to 2015 Professor White was Deputy Chief Librarian, overseeing the Library renovation and helping to manage Library support staff. He worked closely with Professor Jane Devine, the previous Library Chair, who retired in 2014. “Following Jane as Chair of the Library is tough,” he said. “She worked hard to make sure the Library was a welcoming, supportive destination for students that supported their research and information needs. We worked closely over the years to offer new services and we especially focused on the Library Renovation, currently underway and closer to completion. She made the job look easy, and was always supportive and available. I hope that I can meet her standards and continue to work with a most amazing faculty and staff to reach new heights.”

Professor White served as interim Library department Chair from January to August 2015. After a search, chaired by the Library’s Professor Catherine Stern, the President appointed Professor White Chief Librarian in August 2015.

Professor White anticipates that the challenges facing academic libraries across the country will confront LaGuardia. He cites the challenges of digitization as one such challenge: “Economic models support barriers and not gateways,” he said. “The digitization of research and knowledge provides opportunities for researchers and libraries—the struggle is in maintaining access for students and faculty.

As Chief Librarian, Professor White oversees 15 full-time Library faculty and 18 full-time staff. Because of the consortial nature of CUNY’s libraries, he must also work closely with the University Librarian and the chief librarians from other CUNY campuses.

In addition to his work in the Library, Professor White made his mark on a number of College initiatives, doing everything from co-leading the Designed for Learning seminar for the Center for Teaching and Learning, to serving on the Steering Committee for the last Middle States review in 2012, to advocating for LaGuardia and the community colleges as part of the first phase of a CUNY-wide Pathways implementation committee. Professor White was also instrumental as part of the team that brought the Criminal Justice major to LaGuardia and continues to teach in that program. As the son of a community college graduate, Professor White has unique, personal insights into why community colleges are vital institutions.
The Research Review Competition continues to offer our students a unique forum to share their research experiences, present their research papers to the college community and compete for prizes. This year, students submitted papers on a wide range of topics. Here are some examples of the topics:

| Animal Research | 1) using animals in testing and teaching  
|                 | 2) xylitol and toxicity in dogs |
| Criminal Justice| 1) employment and the ex-offender  
|                 | 2) benefits of shortening prison sentences for nonviolent offenders |
| Education       | 1) advantages and disadvantages of online education  
|                 | 2) literacy and skills of English language learners |
| English--Literary Analysis | 1) films--The Royal Tenenbaums  
|                 | 2) poems--“Because I Could Not Stop for Death”  
|                 | 3) books--The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao |
| Psychology      | 1) obsessive-compulsive disorder  
|                 | 2) effects of war on children |
| Science         | 1) health benefits of tea  
|                 | 2) origins and use of the Hubble Space Telescope |

All of the papers continue to provide evidence of our students’ information literacy skills. Specifically, their ability to access, retrieve, evaluate and document sources effectively in the research process.

Historically, many of the students who participate in the Competition do extremely well in their academic studies. This year’s winners were no different. Jhon P. Ortiz (1st place) continues to be very active at the college and will graduate in 2016. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society and has been a student delegate to the National Model United Nations Conference for the last 2 years. Christopher Manes (2nd place) will also graduate in 2016. Christopher participated in the ePortfolio Scholars Project and his page is displayed on the college website. Marie Brewer (2nd place) graduated in August and was accepted to three four-year colleges: Mercy College, City College of New York (CUNY), and Columbia University’s School of General Studies. Presently, she is attending City College and has a customized major through the CUNY BA program offered through the CUNY Graduate Center. Gjineta Sulaj (3rd place) was accepted to Hunter College, but skipped this semester and is currently working as an Administrative Assistant at LaGuardia.

In addition to academic success, information literacy skills are essential to lifelong learning and carry over to the workplace. For the veterinary students, these skills include being able to access, evaluate and manage information on the job as needed. Briana Davis won 3rd place.
in the Competition, graduated from the Veterinary Technology Program and passed the Vet Tech National Board Examination. Presently, she is a full-time Licensed Veterinary Technician in a medical hospital in the West Village and she uses her skills daily on her job.

On September 29th, several of the winners attended a special photo session for a group picture. This photo is included in the article. A Certificate of Participation was also sent in September to all of the students who participated in the Competition. As usual, all of the students were excited and honored by this recognition.

We are thankful to the dedicated classroom instructors who helped us publicize the competition and worked relentlessly with students to help them achieve their academic success. Thanks also to my colleagues who serve with me on the Research Review Panel: Dr. Nicolle Fernandes, Dr. Tomoaki Imamichi, Dr. Sally Mettler, Mr. Christopher McHale and Dr. Yu Zhang.

For additional information about the Research Review Competition, please visit the website located at http://library.laguardia.edu/researchreview.
Faculty can create an account and start uploading their work directly to Academic Works, or they can email the campus liaisons Ann Matsuuchi (amatsuuchi@lagcc.cuny.edu) or Liz Jardine (ejardine@lagcc.cuny.edu) for assistance or to get more information. To find details of journal publishers’ self-archiving policies, faculty may search SHERPA/RoMEO (http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/index.php) or check their publishers’ contract.

LaGuardia on Academic Works
LaGuardia faculty involved with Open Education Resources (OER) can upload their materials to our OER section to make them available to colleagues across town or across the globe. Opening up our scholarship allows current and prospective students to learn more about our faculty’s work. LaGuardia’s Institutional Archives is already digitizing and sharing historical documents about the school’s history through Academic Works. This promotes understanding of our place in CUNY, the greater Queens community and American community college education.

Look for more activities around Academic Works in Spring!
Faculty and Staff Highlights

- **Elizabeth Arestyl** was accepted to the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at Queens College.
- Professor **Dianne Gordon Conyers** was selected to participate in the 2015 Provost’s Learning Space.
- Professor **Silvia Lin Hanick** has been appointed as the First Year Experience (FYE) Librarian. She also presented a webinar on November 17, sponsored by the ACRL Student Learning and Information Literacy Committee, titled “Big Picture Theory and the Practical Classroom: Threshold Concepts and Information Literacy Instruction.”
- Professor **Elizabeth Jardine** was accepted as member of the Delegation of CUNY Librarians and Archivists to Cuba.
- Professor **Steven Ovadia** published a book chapter, “The Data-Driven Librarian” in *Creating Research Infrastructures in the 21st-Century Academic Library: Conceiving, Funding, and Building New Facilities and Staff*. He was also appointed as Deputy Chief Librarian.
- Professor **Scott White** has been appointed as the Chief Librarian.

Jill Biden Visits LaGuardia Community College

The Second Lady of the United States visited LaGuardia Community College on Wednesday, November 4 to promote the Heads Up America Campaign to make two years of community college free. Sharon Wilson Chambers, a student employee in the Circulation Department, was invited to meet Dr. Jill Biden along with Sharon’s daughter Rachel Chambers (also a LaGuardia student). They were also invited to attend a taping of the *Late Night with Seth Meyers* featuring Dr. Biden. See a clip of the program at the following link: https://youtu.be/aMh4rpgw7bM.

For more information about Heads Up America, see the following: [http://headsupamerica.us/](http://headsupamerica.us/).