ASAP and the LRC Class

By Marie C. Spina, Institutional Archivist

Late in August, as many students and faculty were enjoying a few last days of leisure, some of the Library faculty and others in the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) teams were ending an intense summer and enjoying a day of presentations of ePortfolios by students who had joined and completed the ASAP program. ASAP is a new CUNY wide program open to students who will complete the degree in three years, maintain a good GPA, and who are enrolled in approved majors. It required attendance at the summer 2007 institute.

Months of planning by the college ASAP teams had insured that all eligible members of LaGuardia’s student cohort could enroll in the one credit Library course, Internet Research Strategies, LRC 103. This course was the only credit course that was taken in a summer filled with ePortfolio, Common Reading events and other pedagogical enhancements for students who would continue their course of study in a block.

The summer presented an opportunity to guide a large cohort of incoming freshman into the path of familiarity with good research methods and in navigating the maze of information gateways they confront in academic life. All seven sections of the LRC 103, Internet Research Strategies used Blackboard.

LRC103 classes were taught by Jean Boggs, Alex de Laszlo, Elizabeth Namei, and myself. All hands were “on deck” at meetings which set up a wiki to exchange syllabus idea, assignments, exams, class activities, Blackboard design and structured assignments. Therefore, we were able to introduce more sophisticated use of search engines and some Library databases.

With Instruction leaders Prof. Louise Fluk and Charles Keyes, we met with other experienced Library instructors to hammer out a consistent program that would enhance student learning and inculcate research confidence and ability, create awareness of resource availability and the depth and quagmires of the free Web and the hidden web as is revealed in our online databases. The students took a standardized Information Literacy test (for more information on the test, see iSkills article on page 4) and some of us believe the success of the program was shown in the number of our students who have returned to study and have told us how much easier the new course work is after their summer course. As one student said to me “it was almost as good as chilling at the beach.”

2007 Honors Night Awards

By Clementine Lewis, Extended Day/I.I.L Librarian

On September 18, 2007, seventeen students received recognition for outstanding academic achievement in research, coursework for library classes and service to the Library.

Five of the students received the Library Research Review Award for the Research Review Competition. In addition to this award, the students received a U. S. Savings Bond donated by Faculty Council and the following prizes: First Place Winner received an iPod Nano, and Second and Third Place Winners received an iPod Shuffle (see chart below).

LRC Incentive Award

Eleven students received the LRC Incentive Award for the Library’s three-credit course, LRC 102: Information Strategies, and one-credit course, LRC 103: Internet Research Strategies. This award is given to students who excel academically in these courses and serve as a role model for other students in the class.

Additional information about these courses can be found on the Library’s website at www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/lrc/lrc.htm.

Bookstore Humanitarian Award

Maria Ventura was the recipient of the LaGuardia Community College Bookstore Humanitarian Award for outstanding service to the Library. This monetary award is donated by the Barnes & Noble Bookstore.

| First Place | Carolyn T. Guiterrez; ENG 102 – Dr. Lenore Beaky |
| Second Place | Saurab Karim; ENG 103 – Prof. David Styler; Judy M. Porter; ENG 265 – Dr. James Wilson |
| Third Place | Chang K. Kim; LIB 200 – Dr. Karen Miller; Rukhmeei Nauth; ENG 103 – Prof. David Styler |
| Incentive Award | Ahmadou Barry, Anna Lepionka, Randi Finkelstein, Damaris Murphy, Andrew Goldsmith, Andy R. Parag, Andresa Greifembers, Jason A. Prince, Chang-Hyon Hwang, Fujiyoshi Takashi, Natalia Kolganova |
Research Consultations at LaGuardia

By Elizabeth Namei, Reference Consultant

The library began offering students 30-minute research consultations in Fall 2004. Since then the service has seen steady growth. In the 2006-2007 academic year Librarians provided 135 research consultations to LaGuardia students. The busiest months are November and May—around the time when research papers and assignments are due.

The research consultation service was initiated because many students need more assistance and instruction than can be provided at the Library’s busy reference desk. A typical research consultation involves sitting down with a student and discussing his/her topic and needs in detail. The Librarian will review the student’s assignment and then determine which resources are most suitable. The Librarian and student will work together exploring the various resources with the ultimate goal being that the student will be able to independently continue with his/her research.

In many cases faculty have referred their students to this service because the student lacks basic research skills or because faculty do not have class time to devote to the mechanics of the research process. In other cases students are referred by Librarians at the reference desk, either because the large amount of traffic there is not conducive to providing the assistance required or because a particular student would benefit from more in-depth and personalized instruction. The types of research needs vary widely from finding literary criticism, to locating primary sources, to navigating and searching the Library’s databases and online catalog to using MLA or APA citation styles in their papers.

Students can make a half-hour, one-on-one appointment with LaGuardia’s Reference Consultation Librarian by going to the Reference Desk or they can email Elizabeth Namei at enamei@lagcc.cuny.edu to request a meeting time.