LaGuardia Community College

Library Notes

Library Media Resources Center

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Fall 2018

Goodbye and Thank You! Juan Hurtado Retires After 28 Years

By **Clementine Lewis,** *Coordinator of Extended Day & Interlibrary Loan Services*

Juan Hurtado Retires After 28 Years of Dedicated Service to the College

For the last 28 years, Juan Hurtado was the Supervisor for the Extended Day Media Services in the Library. Juan has a very impressive history of service at the College. He started as a student in 1988 and received his A.A.S. Degree in Computer Technology in 1990. He was a great student and made the Dean's List from 1988 to 1989. Later, he continued his studies and received a B.A. degree in Spanish from Hunter College in 2007. From September 1987 to September 1990, he worked part-time as a College Assistant in Media Services. However, in October 1990, he was promoted to College Laboratory Technician (CLT), and eventually a Senior CLT, and worked full-time as the Extended Day Supervisor of Media Services until he retired in January 2018.

During his tenure as the Supervisor of Media Services, Juan was hardworking and he demonstrated a strong passion for his work. He also had great technical skills and demonstrated strong leadership and motivational skills for those he supervised. This is the reason that he was successful in supervision. Without exception, at the end of each day, he thanked each staff member and gave them a handshake before they left the Library.

Juan also coordinated all evening and weekend video production services in the TV studio, classrooms, and for campus events. He was constantly sought out by faculty and staff from all areas of the College community to assist with programs and projects and he was always willing to help.

He was known as the "fixer" in the Library. This is no surprise! Before working at LaGuardia, Juan worked at a large company and his job was in quality control and repair of incoming merchandise. Because of his expertise, he was sought after by all in the Library to fix computers, shredders, and copiers, upgrade ILL software and hardware, set up scanners with

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Library Book Sale—September 23rd-24th, 2019

The Library's next book sale has been scheduled for Monday, September 23rd and Tuesday, September 24th 2019, in the E-Atrium. We will again be offering textbooks, fiction, nonfiction, children's books, and more, at deeply-discounted prices. All proceeds will go toward buying more materials for the Library's collections. If you have any books in reasonable condition cluttering your shelves, now is the time to put them to good use by donating them to the Library. For more information, contact Professor Louise Fluk at 718-482-5424 or fluk@lagcc.cuny.edu or Ms. Maria Olichwer at 718-482-5429 or molichwer@lagcc.cuny.edu. ■

Library Notes
Fall 2018
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This newsletter is published once each semester by LaGuardia Community College's Library Media Resources Center. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Library Media Resources Center or of LaGuardia Community College.

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2018 Library Research Review Competition and Winners

By **Clementine Lewis,** *Coordinator of Extended Day & Interlibrary Loan Services*

During the last thirty-eight years, the Research Review Competition has inspired students to showcase their academic research by entering their papers into the competition. For many, the competition provides the motivation needed to do in-depth research on a topic of interest and to let their voices be heard on issues that matter the most to them!

The research topics for the 2018 competition are great examples of students sharing their passion for their topics and conducting great research in the process. One popular topic dealt with race and discrimination and included papers on U. S. race relations, racism and colorblindness, the Black Lives Matter Movement, discrimination against Hispanics, lack of racial inclusiveness in the feminist movement, misrepresentation of Asian Americans, and the Nazi holocaust and its genocide.

Other popular topics dealt with immigration and included papers on Kosovo and Tibetan immigrants, gentrification and immigrant workers, housing discrimination and Chinese immigrants, effects of immigration enforcement on children born in the United States and children of DACA. Several students had concerns about health and food issues and wrote about vegan diets, stress effects, food waste, and the meat industry. Some wrote about social issues that included topics on the effects of poverty, homelessness in New York City, and the human impact on endangered species. Other topics included life outside the solar system, Cantonese dialect, faith-based living, and history of librarianship in the Philippines.

All of the papers were written with great passion reflecting the students' desire to communicate their concerns and make a difference in society. Furthermore, they are great examples of the importance of teaching writing and information literacy skills in the classroom and the library. As illustrated by the papers and the resources they cited, students are using these skills to enrich their personal lives by finding their voices as concerned citizens.

Meet the Students:
Six student winners were selected for the 2018 Research Review Competition. Upon reviewing their personal goals and educational experiences, it is easy to see how they selected current issues in society as their research topics.

Farhin Shariff (1st place) graduated in Fall 2017 and is currently attending John Jay College. She has plans to obtain a Masters in Mental Health Counseling. While attending LaGuardia, she was an ambassador for the President's Society in Fall 2017. Her work as an ambassador led her to an opportunity to become a co-founder of a nonprofit organization called Inspiring Change With the Youth (ICWY). The goal of this organization is to help at-risk youth. Presently, she is also a Crisis Counselor for the Crisis Text Line, a text-in hotline that provides 24/7 services for people of all ages in crisis and in need of mental health support.

Susan Lindell (2nd place) is pursuing a degree in Industrial Design and anticipates graduating in the summer of 2019. Despite her love for working with objects, she was thankful to be inspired to "work with words" in her ENG 101 class, which was taught by Dr. Lilla Toke. Presently, she is excited to be working at Boyce Technologies in the robotics department, as part of the LaGuardia Honors Internship Program. She is also a member of the Alpha Theta Phi Honor Society. She stays quite busy, but in her free time, she states, "I enjoy regular swims in the LaGuardia pool to help keep me sane throughout the school year."

For the third time, Jennifer Tsuei (2nd place) is a winner in the Competition! She is a part-time student majoring in English. As a mother of two children, she has family responsibilities that limit her participa-

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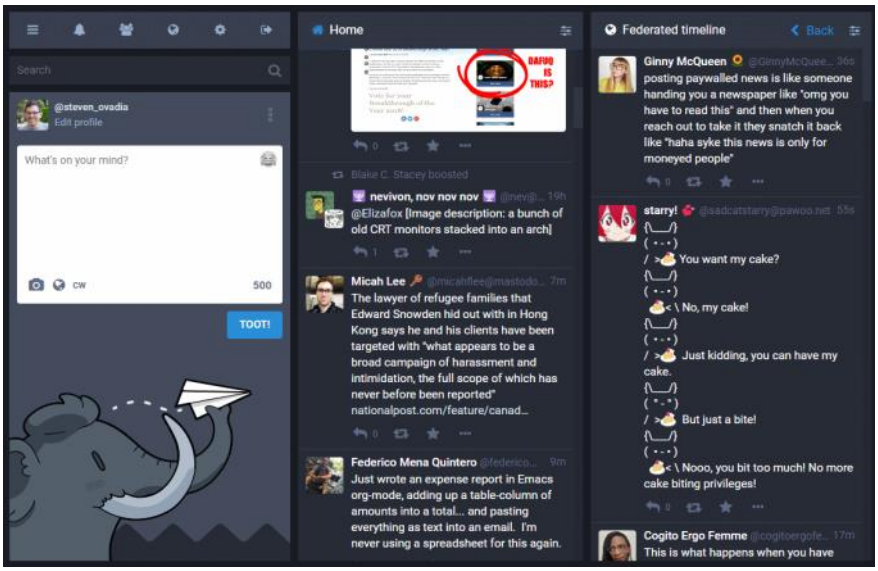
Fight (Or At Least Take a Break From) Fake News with Mastodon

By **Steven Ovadia**, *Deputy Chief Librarian*

Social media is going through a tough time. Facebook hired lobbyists to attack its critics. Twitter stands accused of allowing hate speech to thrive. Both play large roles in the daily spread of lies and misinformation. But despite these problems, not everyone wants to give up social media. At least not cold turkey.

Mastodon (https://joinmastodon.org/) is an interesting, fairly new alternative to Twitter. It's a distributed social network, meaning people join instances and the other instances talk to each other. It's not unlike how we can send email between different services. This functionality allows for a more customized Mastodon experience.



For example, automated bots played a huge role in the spread of lies during the 2016 presidential campaign. There are Mastodon instances that don't allow algorithmically-generated content. Certain Mastodon instances also have their own Code of Conduct, allowing users to join one that aligns with their own sense of propriety. Because there's no central Mastodon, every instance can make its own rules (or not have any). Instances can also be arranged around topics, so that a user can join one based upon an interest, like writing or music.

The interface of Mastodon is also designed to facilitate conversation. You can re-post the comments of others (or "Boost a Toot" in the sigh-inducing parlance of Mastodon) but you can't comment on the repost. This is designed to force participants to engage with each other, one-to-one, rather than posting *bon mots* that don't further a conversation.

In a similar vein, Mastodon doesn't have the same kind of brand-driven accounts seen on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The content is more individual-based,

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New Library Web Site Launched

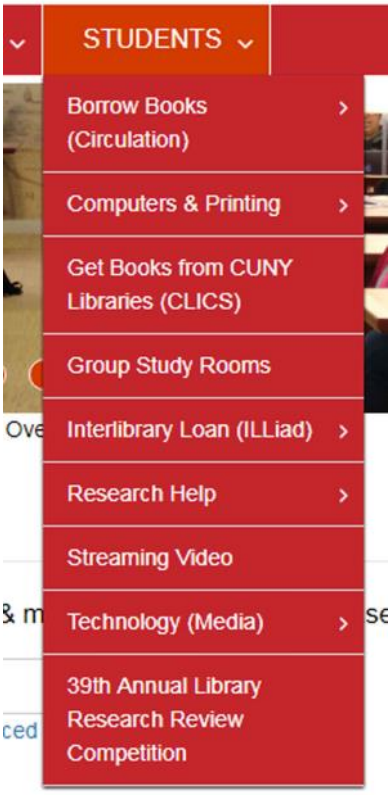
By **Derek Stadler,** *Web Services Librarian*

The LaGuardia Library launched a new web site in September for the 2018-2019 academic year!

The revisions are based on two usability studies conducted in the past two years. Several students volunteered their time to test the existing site and a revised prototype.

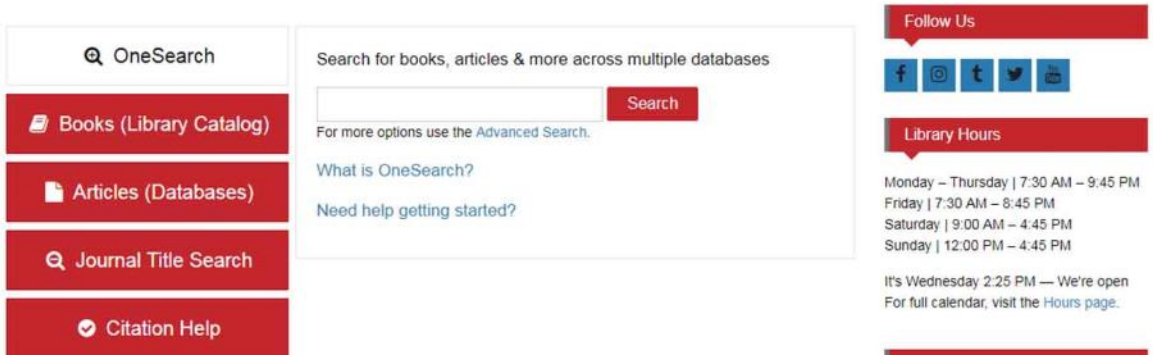
Here are some of the web site updates to look for:

- Easy-to-use all-in-one search tool
- Modern drop-down menu options
- Accessibility sidebar
- Image carousel with news and other information
- Twitter feed
- Database resources divided by academic discipline
- Guidance to subject-specific database resources
- Video tutorials
- Help with resources readily available
- Revised Frequently Asked Questions page■



Modern menu drop-down options

Hover Over Slideshow to Pause



New web site homepage

Fight (Or At Least Take a Break From) Fake News with Mastodon (Continued from page 4)

increasing the chance of genuine interactions and reducing the number of posts from people complaining that their @mcdonalds fries came out cold or that their @delta flight is overbooked. The goal of Mastodon is to facilitate people talking to each other.

Mastodon is an incredibly interesting space, but it's still a work in progress. For example, it has nowhere near the critical mass of Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram, so it's a much quieter place. For some, that's a selling point, but for others, it can feel like a party without any guests.

The user interface is also confusing. There's a local timeline, which is everyone posting on a given instance. But there's a federated one, which is what people are posting across instances. The idea is that it allows communities to connect, but in practice it can feel like a tidal wave of information, too-inside jokes, and often-offensive content (although Mastodon does allow you to ban entire instances so you don't see any of their content).

Instances are also run by individuals, and some are more reliable than others. It's not unheard of for smaller instances to completely disappear. Mastodon has lots of options for exporting your data, but that only works if you export the data before an instance disappears. The beauty of Mastodon is that anyone with server space can create and run an instance. However, that's also the challenge of it.

Despite these caveats, if you're curious to explore Mastodon, just visit https://joinmastodon.org/ and use the instance selection tool to choose one based upon your interests and preferences. Then, create an account and you're rolling. Mastodon has a tool to locate your Twitter followers within the Mastodon ecosystem, so that's often a good way to start. That tool is here: https://bridge.joinmastodon.org/.

Mastodon is not immune to bots and fake news, but given its much smaller user base, distributed nature, and emphasis on human interactions, it can feel like a safer, more honest space. It's not the answer to fake news but it's an interesting place to explore on a break from Facebook or Twitter.

Mastodon Resources

- An Increasingly Less-Brief Guide to Mastodon: https://github.com/joyeusenoelle/GuideToMastodon/
- Official Mastodon blog: https://medium.com/tootsuite
- A Beginner's Guide to Mastodon: https://lifehacker.com/a-beginner-s-guide-to-mastodon-1828503235■

Yeofanah Jean-Mary Leaves after 20 Years of Service

By **Clementine Lewis,** *Coordinator of Extended Day & Interlibrary Loan Services*

In May of 2018, we said goodbye to another long-time and dedicated team member, Ms. Yeofanah Jean-Mary. After twenty years of service, Yeofanah is moving away to pursue other opportunities.

Yeofanah held a unique position in the Library. She worked in a dual position, as a CUNY Office Assistant for two services--the Interlibrary Loan Service and the Extended Day Library Service. For both services, she played a significant role in their growth and helped to keep the related operations running smoothly. Furthermore, her ability to excel at multitasking was invaluable.

She is missed in many ways! For example, one of her greatest assets was her ability to learn quickly and use rapidly changing library technologies to assist with services provided to the College community. As a team player, her spirit of humility and easy smile never ceased during any unexpected challenges that she faced.

Although she is missed, we wish her the best in all of her future endeavors!! ■

tion in campus activities. However, she enjoys the culture of the collaborative classroom community and conducting library research, which she can do 24/7 at any time. Moreover, inspired by her love for research, she looks forward to taking more classes and the challenges of future research projects.

Jianchang Ling (3rd place) graduated in 2018 with an associate degree in Business Administration. While studying at LaGuardia, he served as the Treasurer of the Student Government Association. Presently, he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in accounting at Baruch College. He works part-time in the finance department at New York Foundling. For over two years, he has been a fellow of the America Needs You Program, which offers intensive career and leadership development workshops.

Samad Sunny (3rd place) is pursuing a degree in Business Administration. He maintains a high GPA, made the Dean's List twice and speaks three languages, Bengali, English, and Hindi. After moving to New York from Bangladesh, Samad faced a series of financial obstacles that "almost threatened [his] ability to survive in the United States." However, he was "determined to prove the naysayers wrong" and continued to work hard and excelled in many areas, which include the following prestigious memberships at LaGuardia: a) Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, b) President's Society Ambassador, and c) Student Success Mentor Program. After Samad graduates in 2018, his goal is to pursue a bachelor's degree in finance at Princeton University or Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College.

Maarten Vos (3rd place) is pursuing a major is Writing and Literature and expects to graduate in the Fall 2019. After graduation, his goal is to pursue a four-year college degree and seek a career that will allow him to use a degree in English literature. It is interesting to note that he is an international student from the Netherlands and fluent in two languages, English and Dutch.

Jianchang Ling (Third Place Winner), Susan Lindell (Second Place Winner), Farhin Shariff (2018 First Place Winner holding the Kindle First Prize), Prof. Laura Tanenbaum (Classroom Instructor for First Place Winner), Jennifer Tsuei (Second Place Winner), Prof. Clementine Lewis (Chair, Research Review Panel) and Maarten Vos (Third Place Winner)

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2018 Library Research Review Competition (Continued from page 7)

Acknowledgements
Thanks to Faculty Council for providing the competition prizes! The winners received a Fire HD tablet for first place, $75 Amazon gift cards for second place, and $50 Amazon gift card third place, respectively. And thanks to President Gail Mellow for helping to provide recognition to all of the students via the Certificate of Participation.

We also want to thank the dedicated classroom instructors for helping to promote the Competition and creating learning environments in the classrooms that encourage our students to succeed.
Thanks also to my colleagues who serve with me on the Research Review Panel: Proffessors Kai-chun Chuang, Tomoaki Imamichi, Christopher McHale, Suzanne Rosenberg and Yu Zhang.

Library Research Review Competition Winners and Classroom Instructors

First Place:	*Farhin Shariff* (ENN 191 – Prof. Laura Tanenbaum)
Second Place:	*Susan Lindell* (ENG 101 – Prof. Lilla Toke)
	Jennifer Tsuei (SSH 153 – Prof. Karen Miller)
Third Place:	*Jianchang Ling* (SSN 187 – Prof. Arianna Martinez)
	Samad Sunny (ENG 102 – Prof. Kimberly del Busto Ramírez)
	Maarten Vos (SCP 105 – Prof. Vanessa Brown)

For additional information about the Research Review Competition, please visit the website: http://library.laguardia.edu/researchreview. ■

Goodbye (for now) and Thank You! (Continued from page 1)

new technology, and fix equipment problems in the Library's classroom as needed.

It is also important to note that Juan is a veteran and a member of the New York State Army National Guard. His service to the U.S. Army was one of his passions and he dedicated his life to serving for many years. Juan is also a family man and is currently enjoying his retirement with his family. To Juan, we say, "Thank you for all of your service to the College!" We also wish you a long, happy retirement!! ■

From left to right: Carlos Barros, Dashawn Davis, Juan Hurtado, Martin Ribus

The History Corner:
Long Island City's Brief Tenure as a Self-Sustaining Municipality

By **Derek Stadler,** *Web Services Librarian*

In 1870, the communities of northwestern Long Island consolidated to form a city. A public referendum on February 16, 1869 determined that 299 people approved the union of Astoria, Blissville, Dutch Kills, Hunter's Point, and Ravenswood, and 150 opposed it. In response to the vote, advocates drafted a city charter to be presented to the New York State Legislature. The proposal passed the Assembly and Governor John T. Hoffman signed the new legislation on May 4, 1870. Although the municipality known as Long Island City lasted only twenty-seven years, it united several small communities into one powerful metropolis that sought an improved infrastructure and the development of undeveloped lands (Seyfried, 1984, pp. 100-101).

Gantry Plaza State Park

Unfortunately, Long Island City was known for corrupt politics. The political battle was between the conservative elements in Astoria and the "Ring" in Hunter's Point, known for patronism and easy-going government. In fact, the second mayor, Henry S. Debevoise, was part of the "Ring" and was later exposed in a money laundering scheme. The two ideologies would haunt the city for the remainder of its existence (Seyfried, 1984, p. 114).

One of the most colorful Long Island City mayors was Patrick Jerome Gleason. Born in Ireland, Gleason arrived in Long Island City and established a horse carriage line to Calvary Cemetery in 1874. After amassing a fortune, he sold his business to Henry Steinway and entered politics. Receiving the vote of the working-class Irish, Gleason was elected mayor in 1886. He was known as a "Boss" and

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Archival Insights—Looking at AI

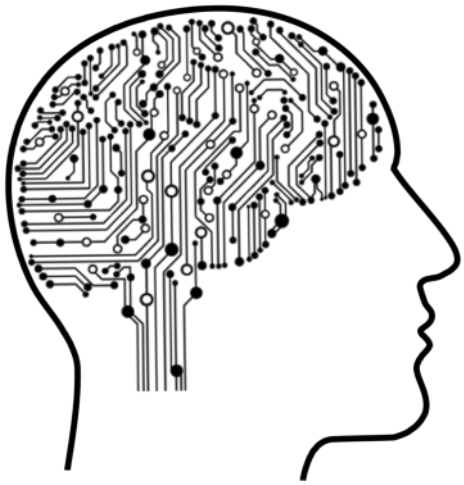
By **Thomas Cleary**, *Archivist/Librarian*

In August 2018, the Society of American Archivists held their annual conference in Washington, DC. With the theme of "Promoting Transparency," there were presentations covering email archives, migration of databases, block chain, and social issues involving "forgotten" and hidden people and groups in collections. One of the presentations I attended, "This is Not Skynet (Yet): Why Archivists Should Care about Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning," stood out. The talk covered using machine learning and artificial intelligence in archives, as tools to assist in processing, cataloging, and sorting digital materials, especially as a way to decrease growing backlogs.

One example from Jefferson Bailey, who works for the Internet Archive, discussed development of an algorithm that can help ID and pull out websites in their collections that might be academic journals. The algorithm enabled the organization to sort through tens of thousands of websites and pull out the ones most likely to be journals. In a traditional setting, an archivist would have to check each site manually and then decide which ones were journals. The automatic method was not perfect, of course, but with feedback from the archivist, the program would learn the concept of an academic journal website and then present them to the archivist to have those files properly processed. Other general projects mentioned involved using neural network programs like Tensorflow to catalog photograph collections, or using topic modeling (algorithms that "reads" sets of documents and find topics/subjects within the set) to represent large digital text collections.

Another key part of the presentation was the human factor in this process. Generally, when people think of this type of data mining, references to Google, Facebook, and Amazon are impossible to avoid. Some algorithms reinforce institutional racism or miss the nuances of materials. So how would archive -led machine learning differ from the corporate approach? To answer this question, the speakers proposed that we use these same tools and make them fit the needs of the field. This would not just involve making them process specific documents types, but also have people invested in training algorithms to be unbiased. An example of a biased algorithm could be one was trained using only photos of doctors as men and nurses as women, leading it to identify any women in a medical setting as a nurse. Here an archivist can step in, notice there is an issue, retrain the algorithm to correct that bias by giving the algorithm a more diverse collection to learn on, and ideally document the process. Increasing transparency and understanding of how these tools function, would make them seem less like something from science fiction and more as the tools that they are.

The biggest issue here is the general lack of funds and skills that archives and educational institutions have to allocate to projects like this, but as the technologies become easier to use, the future of AI in archives is not that far off. These AI tools are for the most part freely available and are becoming much easier to use, even for people with limited background. Also, as archivists develop and work with AI, the tools created will begin to reflect an archival approach, hopefully with an awareness of the issues that come with AI technologies used by major companies. The presenters urged attendees to get involved, play around with these tool, and look into the possibilities of incorporating AI in the field.



As an archivist, I saw this challenge as an answer to the question of "what next?" What do we do after we have scanned and make available online our student newspapers and literary journals? Do they just sit there waiting to be used, or can more be done with the

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Faculty and Staff Highlights

- **Professor Clementine Lewis** celebrated her 30-year anniversary at the College in September 2018. During the December 2018 Professional Staff Meeting, she was one of the honorees who received a pin commemorating her service to the College.
- **Professor Steve Ovadia's** "Shadow Project Management: Using the Project Management Body of Knowledge to Informally Manage Library Projects" was published in *Project Management in the Library Workplace* (Bingley: Emerald Publishing) in May 2018.
- **Linda Barber** was awarded her Masters in Library Science from Queens College, CUNY in December 2018.

Archival Insights Continued from page 10)

materials? Re-contextualizing scanned materials to view them as data to be explored gives the materials more flexibility in summarizing materials and incorporating them into research and class environments. For future *Library Notes* articles, I'll be following through on "what next?" by poking around the archives' digital collections with some AI tools to see how techniques like natural language processing and neural networks can contribute to the archival field and hopefully learn a bit more about the archives' collections and what they say about LaGuardia Community College.■

The History Corner (Continued from page 9)

dominated the city government by appointing himself presiding officer of the Boards of Education, Water Supply, and Police. He controlled all appointments to the Board of Assessors and used the Board for his own purposes. He was later defeated in a run for a third term by Horatio S. Sanford. Sanford attempted to restore public confidence in the city's institutions and finances (Seyfried, 1984, pp. 121-124, 126, 130).

During his years in office, Gleason was known for his criticism of the Long Island Rail Road. In 1888, the company fenced off Front Street so that no one could access the area without a train ticket. Upon hearing this, Gleason got an axe and physically destroyed both the railroad gates and fence. After winning a lawsuit filed against him for the attack, he later proceeded to destroy the railroad's express sheds. After winning a second case, he was referred to as "Battle Axe Gleason" (Hazelton, 1925, p. 949).

Gleason was re-elected mayor in 1895. However, he served only two years of a three-year term as consolidation with the City of Greater New York threw him out of office and brought an end to the twenty-seven year-old city. Both Gleason and William Steinway publicly endorsed consolidation for the good of Long Island City. In its short existence as a municipality, Long Island City more than doubled in population. The population was 15,609 in 1875, but grew to 48,272 in 1900 (Hazelton, 1925, pp. 947, 951; Seyfried, 1984, p. 132). ■

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Seyfried, V.F. (1984). *300 Years of Long Island City*. New York: Edgian Press.