

Sharing My Internship Experience

By **Tanzih Islam** (edited by **Linda Barber**
(Media Services))

I'm finishing my bachelor's degree in Computer Systems Technology at New York City College of Technology. One of the criteria for completing my degree is to obtain some tech-related experience through an internship. As I finish my final week as an intern at Media Services, I want to share my experience and the skills I've learned.

I was responsible for covering the Media Lab and the Front Desk, conducting preventive and routine maintenance on all media equipment, helping with 3D printer design projects, and helping my supervisor collect data for statistical reports and inventory control. I put a lot of new skills to use during this internship, including verbal communication, teamwork, decision-making, and problem-solving. Everyone at Media Services with whom that I interacted was incredibly kind and helpful in teaching me. When a problem or issue arose, we occasionally had to apply decision-making or problem-solving techniques.

I also gained firsthand knowledge of just how hectic a job can become, particularly when a semester ended and a new one began. The staff at Media Services had to be prepared in order to guarantee delivery of their services. A lot of inventory was kept on hand to ensure that.

Traveling, exploring new locations, taking pictures and watching sunsets, and tasting new foods are some of my favorite pastimes. In fact, a few of my Media Services co-workers are foodies. I believe that this quality has helped us form strong bonds. My experience as an intern at Media Services was great and valuable. ■



Tanzih and her sunset catch!

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Faculty and Staff Highlights

- **Professor Anne O'Reilly** received promotion to associate professor, effective September 2023.
- **Professor Ian McDermott** received tenure, effective September 2023.
- **Professor Derek Stadler** received tenure and promotion to full professor, effective September 2023.
- **Professor Thomas Cleary** was awarded an NEH Grant for Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges to run the "[Oral History in Interdisciplinary Community College Pedagogy](#)" seminar with Professor Tomonori Nagano (ELA) and Dr. Molly Rosner (LaGuardia & Wagner Archives)
- **Professor Liz Jardine** co-authored with Megan Wacha, Michael Kirby, Jean Amaral, Meagan Lacy, and Katie Lyons, "[What's Missing? The Role of Community Colleges in Building a More Inclusive Institutional Repository Landscape.](#)"



The Winter without Snow, Orient Point Beach State Park (photo: Danielle S. Apfelbaum)

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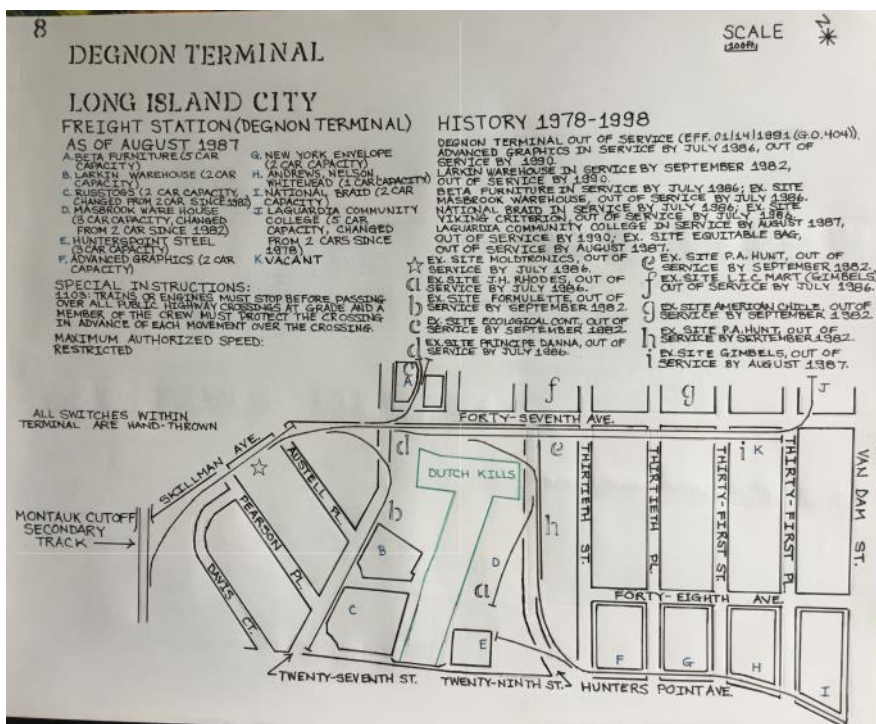
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Update: A Time to Draw to Reconnect with Your Past

By Derek Stadler, Web Services Librarian, Head of Media Services

In the Spring 2021 issue of *Library Notes*, I wrote the article "A Time to Draw: Reconnect with Your Past." It highlighted how I turned to sketching maps during the COVID pandemic and my new project to sketch the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) system. Similar to a collection circa 1958 housed in the Emery Collection of the SUNY Stony Brook Archives, my three-set collection will have the physical characteristics of the LIRR along with historical information that I have researched, highlighting the LIRR in the years 1978, 1998, and 2018. The collection documents the changes made every 20 years since 1958.

For this issue of *Library Notes*, I want to provide an update on my progress. So far, I have created over 75 maps, including the area around LaGuardia Community College, which was part of Degnon Terminal, a major rail-freight hub built in the early twentieth century for local industries in Long Island City and later (1928) incorporated into the LIRR. Major factories in Degnon Terminal area included the American Chicle Factory (which produced chewing gum and candy), the Ever Ready Factory (which produced flashlights and radio batteries), and the Loose-Wiles Sunshine Biscuits factory (which produced cookies, crackers, and other assorted treats), the latter housed in what is today LaGuardia's C Building. Degnon's tracks ran along the streets and alongside the sides of buildings, like this [freight consist leaving what is now the C Building and heading out onto Forty-seventh Avenue](#). Often tracks went right into the building for a freight pick-up, like this [freight car being pulled from what was then American Chicle](#), now the



A map of the Degnon Terminal area highlighting all of the freight operations in the area as of August 1987.

References:

LI City, Degnon terminal. (n.d.). Retrieved April 12, 2023, from <http://www.trainsarefun.com/lirr/licity/degnon/degnonterminal.htm>

School Construction Authority building. In the 1960s, the Equitable Paper Bag Company was a freight customer in what is now the E Building. Across the street in what is now the Falchi Building was Gimbel Brothers. When LaGuardia took over the E Building, they became a freight consignee in the 1980s. However, by the 1990s, the LIRR abandoned the Degnon Terminal.

Although I have created over 75 maps, I have only made a dent in my project. It will no doubt keep me busy in the years to come. ■

Rediscovering the Joy of Browsing

By Steve Ovadia, Coordinator, Technical Services

My second daughter was born in June 2023, which meant that, thanks to the Professional Staff Congress, I got to spend that summer with her and with my then three-year-old daughter. My older daughter and I visited different Westchester libraries each week, because she's the daughter of two librarians, of course we were going to see what the various libraries had to offer.

The outings were helpful to my work here at the college, for better or for worse, depending upon your concept of healthy work-life boundaries. One thing I noticed was that we enjoyed the children's collections with lots of books out, often on top of shelves, covers facing out, curated collections making it easy to see what a library has in its



holdings.

Photo via <https://twitter.com/lagcclibrary/>

Discoverability is an important part of librarianship. Librarians spend a lot of time and energy making items findable in the catalog. As the campus cataloger, I spend most of my time trying to make sure patrons can find what they need, through online records, and through call numbers that group similar items together on the shelf. These are vital

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tools, but they're not everything. You don't always know what you want until you see it. It's sort of like Mall Food Court Syndrome, the treatable condition where you need to circle a food court, seeing the actual places, before you can figure out what you actually want to eat.

All of this was bouncing around in my head as I returned from my leave. LaGuardia was settling into a post-COVID rhythm, with more people on campus, so it seemed a good time to try to introduce intentional serendipity to LaGuardia's collection, which has some real gems. I wanted to create something curated and easy-to-regularly-curate that would make it simple for busy patrons to spot something interesting. I decided to set up a collection in the wooden book displays near the Circulation Desk. These had previously housed a selected collection of our new books. There were a lot of new books in this area. I found it a little overwhelming, although I know some patrons enjoyed going through them, like finding an incredible stash of books at a random garage sale. I kept half of a book stand for a tighter new books area, and took two other half-stands for "Selections from the Collection," which are thematic, focusing on events like Black History Month and Poetry Month. Periodicals took the final half-display to spotlight some of their many interesting titles.

Our circulation data showed that the books pulled for display tend to circulate. Helping things is that Jamie Vitale, one of the Technical Services assistants, will print covers for books that are missing them, making that collection attractive and engaging. Professor Anne O'Reilly, who leads the Library's marketing, had nice signs made for the collection, and shows off the monthly displays on social media, which also helps people find these books.

But mostly I credit the books themselves for grabbing readers' attention. Despite what everyone says about not judging a book by its cover, cover-judging is preferable to judging a book by its spine; the simple act of turning the books around has made it easier for patrons to see all of the great titles we have. And hopefully it'll send them back into the stacks, more willing to navigate call numbers, to find other great books that didn't have the good fortune to be brought out to the display. But in a perfect world, every book in our collection will eventually get its moment up front, to fulfill its destiny. ■

VHS Comeback in the Archives

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

In a time where [everything is new again](#) and [dead analog formats are making a comeback](#), we in the Archives have been dabbling in necromancy to get a handle on the VHS tapes in our collections. Over the last year, we've been digitizing a 500+ tape VHS collection from Media Services that documents activities and events at LaGuardia from the 1980s to the early 2000s. We decided to prioritize these tapes after seeing that what was in the collection did not fully meet what we had in inventory lists and realizing that many were starting to be at risk of deterioration and decay. VHS generally stays stable for only 20 to 30 years before the tape falls apart; so it was time to play them back and digitize them.

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Engaging Students in Valuable Learning Experiences: Forty-first Annual Library Research Review Competition

By **Clementine Lewis**, Extended Day/Interlibrary Loan Librarian

At LaGuardia, students are actively engaged in classroom and library research activities, which help them develop information literacy skills, and self-confidence and achieve academic success at the College. These research activities are offered via LaGuardia's innovative programs and initiatives. The Research Review Competition is a program developed by the Library to promote research and writing skills. Students submitted 31 research papers into the 2021-2022 Research Review Competition. These papers provide a wealth of information and illustrate students actively engaged in valuable learning experiences.

The topics listed in the table on the next page represent the 31 research papers submitted by students. All of these papers demonstrate the students' abilities to use information literacy skills while conducting scholarly research.

Students who actively engage in research develop essential lifelong skills such as effective communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and information management. The following Competition winners are great examples of students who demonstrate these essential lifelong skills at LaGuardia and in other areas of their lives.

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Left to right: *Nicholas Russell (Third Place Winner)*, *Dr. Sorin Cucu (Classroom Instructor for First Place Winner)*, *Perla Cuevas de León (2021-22 First Place Winner holding the Kindle First Prize)*, *Chad R. Gonzalez and Laura B. Supper (Third Place Winners)*, *Clementine Lewis (Chair, Research Review Panel)* and *Arhum Aamir (Second Place Winner)*

<i>Research Papers Included A Diverse Range of Topics</i>	
<i>Health Issues</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) dental caries symptoms and treatment b) depression in children and adolescents leading to suicide c) effects and enjoyment of sad stories d) effects of coronavirus in Burma, India, and South Korea e) effects of schizophrenia on individuals and families
<i>Education Topics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) American educational system vs. African American Vernacular (AAVE) b) importance of total quality management (TQM) c) monolingualism and language bias d) racial influence on AAVE e) study of urban bilingualism among English-speaking Hispanics f) unique architectural masterpiece: the Hagia Sophia monument
<i>Environmental Issues</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) critical need for conservation of Japanese coral reefs b) disposal of organic waste in Haiti c) effects of heavy metal pollution in NYC waterways d) role of the monarch butterfly in the natural ecosystem
<i>Literary Studies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) analysis of violence and abuse in <i>Mean</i> b) historical analysis of <i>Heart of Darkness</i> c) historical analysis of "Sonny's Blues"
<i>Social Issues</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) accuracy of population studies b) causes and effects of climate change on girls' access to education c) effects of bullying on LGBT teens d) effects of racial discrimination e) exploring personality masks for personal and social identity f) food: the unspoken language of immigrants g) impact of Americanization on immigrants h) 19th century women and gender roles i) Rohingya refugee crisis
<i>Veterinary Medicine Topics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) equine viruses' impact on horses and public health in Costa Rica b) oclacitinib treatment for canine atopic dermatitis

Meet the Students:

Perla Cuevas de León (1st place) graduated in the Fall Semester of 2022 with an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in Writing and Literature, with a concentration in Creative Writing. In Fall 2023, she will attend Hunter College. Perla has been a very active student at the College. On Wednesday, September 7, 2022, she stated, "I had the amazing opportunity of being selected to read one of my pieces called 'Horizon' at the Fall 2022 Opening Sessions program at LaGuardia." Perla was also on the Dean's List twice in 2021 and in 2022. In the spring of 2022, she participated in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program. She had an internship as a Social Media Manager and Content Creator for Growth Potential Consulting. Presently, as a returning fellow to the program, she has an internship at Impact Consulting Enterprises, a communication, marketing, and public relations firm. According to Perla, one "memorable and excellent experience" includes speaking about the... 10KSB Program and its benefits to the news team of PIX11, after a few encouraging words from President Adams. Perla also states that she has always been an avid reader. Her passion for books and writing started very early. She wrote her first novel at the age of fifteen and continued to pursue writing mainly in her native language of Spanish. After she

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came to the United States and attended classes at the Gotham Writers Workshop, she started to write in English. Perla's journey wasn't easy, but LaGuardia has helped her to build confidence in her writing and creative skills. She is also thankful to Professor Sorin Cucu for his encouragement and support in developing her research skills. "I submitted my paper for the Competition," she said, "because he believed in me."

Arhum Aamir (2nd place) also won 3rd place in the 2020-21 competition. As a previous winner, many of his accomplishments were highlighted in an article published in the 2022 Spring issue of the *Library Notes* newsletter. Arhum continues to be very active at the College. Currently, he is working as a College Assistant with the Honors Program and will serve as an editor of the next issue of LaGuardia's *Honors Journal*. After graduating from LaGuardia in Spring 2023, Arhum intends to transfer to a four-year university to further his studies in mechanical engineering. He aspires to become an engineer who "emphasizes sustainable practices, aiming to simultaneously improve the quality of life for others while combatting climate injustice." Based on all of his contributions and work to bring green spaces to the LaGuardia campus, we are confident that he will accomplish all of his goals.

Alpha Haque (3rd place) graduated in the Spring Semester of 2022 with an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Radiologic Technology. As a student at LaGuardia, Alpha was very active. She was a member of the Rad Tech Club, which is sponsored by the Radiologic Technology Program. During the 2021-22 academic year, she was awarded a scholarship from the LaGuardia Foundation. Alpha's hobbies include nature walks, baking, watching horror movies, and researching criminal psychology. Her last hobby seems to align with one of her career pursuits:

Alpha received a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Forensic Mental Health Counseling from John Jay College in 2013. Presently, she is working as an X-ray Technician with Lenox Hill Radiology, where she is training on the job to become a Mammography Technician. Alpha also has plans to continue advancing her career as a healthcare professional by pursuing a degree as a Computed Tomography Technician.

Nicholas Russell (3rd place) graduated in the Spring Semester of 2022 with an Associate in Science (AS) degree in Environmental Sciences. Before he graduated, he was on the Dean's List in the Fall of 2021. Presently, he is attending Queens College and pursuing a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Environmental Sciences. Nicholas also remains very active in environmental research and education. He is currently engaged in a literature review for the *Advances in Marine Biology* journal and is investigating "applications of restorative aquaculture" with Dr. Sarah Durand, principal investigator (PI). Nicholas is also working with LaGuardia and Queens College faculty, as well as the Newtown Creek Alliance, to cultivate kelp in NYC waterways for water quality remediation, habitat restoration, and citizen science data collection.

Laura B. Supper (3rd place) is a first-semester Registered Nursing candidate and expects to graduate in June 2024 with an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Nursing. Laura has never worked in the medical field, but she is very excited about her new career pursuit at the age of 52. Her previous career involved hotel & restaurant management and public relations. She was also co-owner of a wine importing company for 10 years. Like so many others, the pandemic forced her to re-evaluate her future and, after much deliberation and soul-searching, she decided she was ready to go

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back to school for her nursing degree. Laura stated, "It was challenging returning to school 27 years after receiving my first BA (Psychology), and the whole concept of on-line classes was rather intimidating for me. I feel I adjusted quickly. I'm not going to lie, I was happy when we came back to campus, though, as it is the mode of study with which I am more comfortable." Presently, she is adjusting to the RN program, which she noted is intense and demanding in a different way than her pre-requisite courses. However, she is enjoying getting to know her peers in her cohort and experiencing her first clinical rotations at Bellevue Hospital. After she graduates, her future plans include working and simultaneously pursuing a RN to BSN program (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) for better career opportunities and compensation as a healthcare professional. According to Laura, her experience at LaGuardia has been "wonderful" and she has met people of all ages and ethnicities: "I feel very lucky to be studying in such a diverse community."

Chad R. Gonzalez (3rd place) was a non-traditional and part-time student who currently holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Theatre degree, with a concentration in Theatre/Arts Administration, from the University of Houston-Downtown. In March of 2020, Chad came to LaGuardia to pursue a new career in Nursing. While attending LaGuardia, Chad was an active student and received an invitation to join the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society in the Spring of 2022. She credits LaGuardia for being "instrumental in jumpstarting her career change into nursing." In 2023, Chad transferred to Texas Lutheran University in New Braunfels and is currently finishing her first of five semesters in the 20-month accelerated program, Direct-Entry Master of Science in Nursing (DEMSN). Before leaving, she expressed thanks to her classroom instructors, including Dr. Pui Yee Chung for "making Microbiology and the research process both fascinating and exciting" for her. She also expressed thanks to Prof. Derek Stadler in the Library for his help and guidance with her research papers. Chad summarized her experiences at LaGuardia by stating, "My achievements at LAGCC are the result of its professors, whose dedication and enthusiasm have inspired me throughout the semesters."

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Faculty Council for providing the competition prizes! The winners received a Fire HD tablet, a \$75 and a \$50 Faculty Council Gift Check for first, second and third places, respectively.

Special thanks to President Kenneth Adams for helping to provide recognition to all of the students via the Certificate of Participation. Also, thanks to the Students Communication Team for helping to publicize the Competition to students via Hobsons. Thanks to Sadana Raghunath for the great photo of the winners!

Thanks to all of the dedicated classroom instructors who continue to guide, motivate, and engage our students in an ever-evolving learning environment. Students have expressed their appreciation for all of your efforts. You play an important role in their lives!

Thanks also to my colleagues who serve with me on the Research Review Panel: Dr. Sandra Dickinson, Dr. Tomoaki Imamichi, Prof. Christopher McHale, Prof. Suzanne Rosenberg, and Dr. Yu Zhang.

Library Research Review Competition Winners and Classroom Instructors

First Place: Perla Cuevas de León (ENG 289 – Dr. Sorin Cucu)

Second Place: Arhum Aamir (HUA 101 – Prof. Fern Luskin)

Third Place: Chad R. Gonzalez (SCB 260 – Dr. Pui Yee Chung)

Alpha Haque (ENG 102 – Dr. Ece Aykol)

Nicholas Russell (SCG 250 – Dr. Holly Porter-Morgan)

Laura B. Supper (SCN 260 – Dr. Olga Calderon)

For additional information about the application process and rewards of the competition, please watch this [YouTube video](#) of the 2020-21 First Place Winner, Alex Palomo, discuss his experience with the Research Review Competition. ■

VHS Comeback in the Archives (Continued from page 5)

It was difficult to justify digitizing the tapes professionally and handling large raw Audio Video Interleave files with no way to know what was on many of the tapes beyond a title, or the quality of the tapes, or the quantity of footage on each tape. Instead, we took the “something is better than nothing” preservation approach and through our Media unit, set up a VHS player and a computer connected with a basic video capture card/cable to make smaller MP4 files. There was a sacrifice in video quality, but we are now able to prioritize any VHS for higher quality digitization later on.

Not every tape were we able to digitize successfully. Some videos had issues from when they were created, either having no sound or the image out of focus. We also, unfortunately, lost one box of tapes entirely due to tape decay, with the tapes playing back only with lots of warble and lines running down the screen.

Overall, the project was very successful in accessing and preserving this one part of our collections. We were able to find some videos that we did not realize we had and now can make some of the better quality recordings available for use. In total, we ended up with about 360 GB of footage, a relatively manageable amount of disk space compared to the terabytes of space a more in-depth digitization project would have taken up. Considering that some of the videos were unusable, we can soon show what videos we do have and then prioritize higher quality digitization in the future based on researcher needs. ■

