

# CIRCUMSPICE

no.81 (n.s.)  
Fall 2010

## CCNY Library Faculty Teaching FIQWS Seminars

Over the last few years, City College has offered incoming freshman the opportunity to enroll in exciting courses in the Freshman Inquiry Writing Seminars (FIQWS). This program allows freshmen to choose a six-credit course from a panoply of interesting topics ranging from "Asking and Answering Questions in Literature and the Law," to "Music for the Cinema," to "Women and Film," and beyond—approximately 55 engaging choices.

Courses are team taught by two faculty members, each teaching weekly classes. One professor concentrates on the topic, offering lectures and seminar-style discussions, focusing on critical thinking, and guiding students through the steps involved in a related research paper. The writing professor focuses on analytical writing through assigned journal entries, essays, response papers, and peer-editing.

A number of library faculty also teach two sessions for each FIQWS seminar, introducing students to the rich research resources the library offers (both online and in print), demonstrating different search techniques, and working hands-on with students in their searches.

Several librarians have gone beyond this library research involvement and have jumped into the FIQWS program feet first! Let's meet Professors Sarah Aponte, Ching-Jung Chen, and William Gibbons who have lead the way.

Last fall Sarah Aponte, CCNY's Dominican Studies Institute librarian, taught "Exploring Dominican Culture in the United States," as manifested in musical expressions, dance, folklore, arts, food, and literature. The course examined issues of race, social class and gender, and the way that first, second and third generation Americans of Dominican

descent interpret and explore their identity in the United States.



Sarah earned her AA from Hostos, her BA from CCNY, an MLS from Queens, and most recently an MEd from Baruch. About her FIQWS seminar she writes

that, "This was a unique class since the classroom lectures and discussions were supplemented by amazing guest speakers, three-dimensional materials (costumes, carnival masks, food), film screenings, field trips and research visits to the Dominican Studies Institute Archives and Library."

Co-teaching this course, Andrea Ribaldo, whom Sarah terms an "amazing writing instructor," was also finishing a CCNY MA in English. Sarah noted that Andrea's "interest in Dominican issues made it extremely easy for us to share resources and to integrate our syllabus. Our students still drop by to say hello and to share with us how the semester is going." Andrea herself writes that she, "welcomed the opportunity to audit Prof. Aponte's topic sections, to learn, and to base my lessons around hers. Reflecting on this experience, I've found that this decision led to the most cohesive, productive and successful semester I could imagine."



Ching-Jung Chen, CCNY's visual resources librarian, is currently teaching, as she did last fall also, "Painted Portraits: Facts and Fiction." An

introduction to Western portrait painting from the Renaissance to the present, the course looks at visual representations of individual likenesses, considering them in terms of their formal and iconographic constructions as well as their significance within the society at the time they were produced. A museum visit or two complement the lectures and in-class discussions.

In addition to her master's degree in library science, Ching-Jung also earned an MA in art history and criticism from Stony Brook and a PhD in art history from Rutgers. She teaches the seminar collaborating with writing professor Gina Grimaldi, a PhD student at the Graduate Center.



Reference librarian William Gibbons is teaching a FIQWS seminar this semester for the first time. His course, "The Changing Streetscapes

of Harlem," explores Harlem's rebirth in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, examining such relevant themes and topics as Harlem's social and architectural history, the making of a ghetto, new home ownership opportunities, public and private partnerships, financing low-income development, gentrification, and alternatives to displacement. Class trips to examine some of the rich collections at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and guest lecturers add to the students' understanding of what is happening within the community which City College shares.



# From The Desk Of The Chief Librarian

Dear Graduate Student:

It's time to change the way we do things here in the library, and possibly to save you some coin in the process. Specifically, I am talking about submission of your thesis.

Up to now, we have asked you to submit two paper copies of your master's thesis to the division, along with a bursar's receipt showing that you paid the binding fee. The division sends the copies, along with the cover sheet showing approval by the thesis advisor, to the library. We bind the copies and catalog them into CUNY+.

Now, we're switching to digital submission. The academic Deans have agreed that your final approved thesis should be submitted in PDF format on CD to the division office. When you are ready to submit your thesis, request from the division office a **Digital Thesis License Agreement** form and follow its instructions.

The division office will send the completed license and the approval sheet to us, also in PDF format, and give us the CD. At the end of the embargo period, if any, we will add a digital copy of the thesis to our CCNY digital repository on the CUNY dSpace site, and make a cataloged copy accessible through the CUNY+ online catalog. We will maintain the CD in Archives.

If you have any questions about formats or the process, please contact the Library Archives at 212-650-7609 for advice.

Sincerely,

Pamela Gillespie

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Comments, suggestions and feedback regarding the library's services are always welcome and should be addressed to me by calling x7271, sending email to [prgcc@sci.ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:prgcc@sci.ccny.cuny.edu), or by dropping by NAC 5/333 (Cohen Library).

**How Tweet It Is!**

Do you ever feel like recommending a great book or film for the CCNY Library's collection but don't know who to tell?

Do you want to keep up with new databases available via CCNY Libraries and retweet to your friends so they know, too?

Well, what are you waiting for? Follow one of our librarians today!

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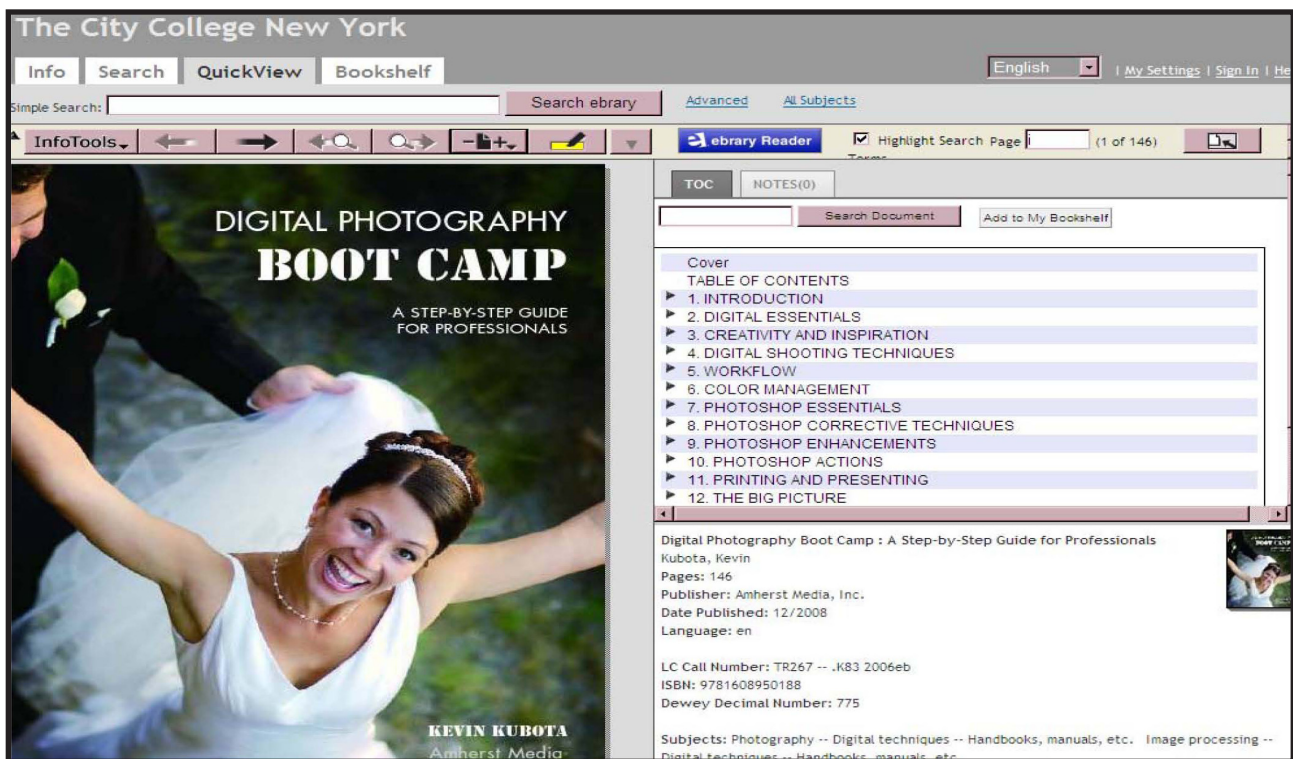
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## 100,000 and counting... Ebooks have arrived at CCNY!



An Ebrary title.

Over the last decade, the CCNY libraries have greatly expanded our virtual library of online databases and journals. Recently, we have added to this collection over 100,000 ebooks that support a major part of the CCNY community's research interests. The range of publishers is impressive-- Springer, Oxford University, Cambridge University, Gale, and U.S. Government Documents to name a few. Two of the largest collections are Ebrary with 45,000 titles and Springer with 18,000 titles, representing all the college's disciplines.

How big a deal is this addition? Well, in the past, a single hardcover book would be available to one individual for a three-week loan with the option of four renewals. With ebooks, for example, one title in a two-week period this September had 76 users who read 439 chapters in the book!

Accessing CCNY's eBook collection is best accomplished by using the online catalog--CUNY+. Before searching,

limit your search to City College, not the Union Catalog. An easy search approach is keyword ("all fields") searching using the term electronic resource along with your subject--this will list both electronic journals and books. An example is the search: electronic resource and china and economy. This search gives you 57 books on this topic published from 1997 to the present.

Once you find a title you want, click on the URL provided and, if you're off campus, supply your proxy information (as you do when accessing databases and e-journals off site). Each provider of ebooks imposes limitations that you should be aware of. Can you download chapters or a whole book? Can you print? Can you email portions of the text? Limitations vary with each ebook provider. Exploring the site of the book you've chosen will clarify any limitations. The bottom line, however, is that you can indeed read the entire book online.

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One of the drawbacks of ebooks may be the public's disdain for reading books on a monitor. Unfortunately, all our ebooks must be accessed this way. Ereaders, although building in popularity, still have not established a single platform. Ebooks are not interchangeable among Kindles, Nooks, Sony Readers and iPads. Copyright issues also make ereaders less attractive in a library environment. These factors, however, are dwarfed by our community's ability to have 24/7 access to this large collection.

Rob Laurich  
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# The Library Scene



Deputy Consul General Yashuhisa Kawamura (l.) and Prof. Sydney Van Nort, CCNY Archivist. At the annual July library event hosting visitors from Shimoda.



The library hosted a baby shower for College Assistant, Juana Minier on September 16—her baby Miguel has arrived!



The Cohen Library Archives hosted a September 15 reception for the new exhibit, ***The Langston Hughes Festival: A Celebration of African-American Writers***, which is on display through December 31 in the Cohen Library Archives Gallery. (See accompanying article on p. 9)



Prof. William Gibbons addressing the Langston Hughes audience.



Co-curators Professors William Gibbons, reference librarian, (l.) and Gordon Thompson, director, Black Studies Program, at the Langston Hughes exhibit.



(l. to r.) Staff members Samuel, Zita, and Joel worked on exhibit production with Prof. Gibbons.

# Library Scene (cont'd)



Copies of *An American Type*—edited from Henry Roth's own words by Willing Davidson.

At the October 18 "Celebrating Henry Roth Event" in the Cohen Library Archives, an overflow audience honored his connection to CCNY (class of 1928), his literary work, his posthumous publication, *An American Type*, and a previously unseen work to be published next year in the CCNY English department's journal, *Fiction*.



Standing-room only!



Panelists at the lively Henry Roth literary event in the library Archives October 18th: (l. to r.) Lawrence Fox, Trustee of the Henry Roth Literary Properties Trust; Willing Davidson, editor of *An American Type*; Robert Weill, editor of *Mercy of a Rude Stream* by H. Roth; Marshall Berman, distinguished professor, CCNY Political Science Dept.; Mark Jay Mirsky, editor of *Fiction*, CCNY English Dept.



Avi Shalem, Cohen Library College Assistant, cuts the cake at his October going-away party celebrating his four years of service.

## New Chief of Cataloging Arrives



**W**e welcome Yoko Inagi as our new chief of cataloging & materials processing. Yoko comes to us from the Mohave Desert setting of Victor Valley College in California, where she worked as the technical services librarian. She brings experience in all aspects of technical services, including acquisitions, cataloging, and a different integrated library system (SIRSI). She has a special expertise in authority control work. Most importantly she brings lots of warm enthusiasm, eagerness to learn, and a deep commitment to communication and management.

Born in Tokyo, Yoko remembers frequent trips to the local public library with her father and brother. In high school she participated in long distance running and judo. Interested in English literature, Yoko followed the recommendation of an English teacher and enrolled in Columbia Community College in Sonora, California.

As the only international student she immersed herself in the American experience. After earning her two-year degree, she transferred to UCLA, discovering Southern California, riding her bike around town and to the beaches, and managing to complete the L.A. marathon. She majored in English, particularly enjoying a course in Chaucer.

Yoko began her library career at UCLA's East Asian Library, working in acquisitions and cataloging as well as public services. She became fascinated with the intricacies of the LC classification system and earned a student achievement award for outstanding service to the library.

After college she returned to Santa Cruz for a year's work in a Borders bookstore. This experience led her to decide on library school. She returned to Japan for one year to teach English and save up some money, teaching at the Tokyo's AEON Corporation, serving all age and learning levels, where she was a "teacher of the month." She also coordinated school events and meetings, arranged for foreign instructors, updated their web site, and designed posters and flyers. After taking her GREs she applied and was accepted to SUNY Buffalo's library school. She chose Buffalo to see another part of our country—and discovered the natural beauty of enormous snow storms!

While in library school, she worked in the centralized technical services divi-

sion. She also helped in a move of 14,000 volumes to remote storage. Coursework included digitization of rare manuscripts and objects and development of a metadata scheme according to the Dublin Core practices.

Yoko also volunteered to encode archival finding aids utilizing the encoded archival description (EAD) format, helped with indexing special collections, and examined principles of vocabulary control for an authorities clean-up project for multiple collections. After graduation she was hired full time to do original cataloging and train student assistants in copy cataloging.

Appreciating this current opportunity, Yoko looks forward to the challenges of cataloging in this larger setting during changing times while reviewing our current procedures with an eye to future improvements. She is eager to develop new collaborations with other divisions in the library and to explore how she might bring her authority control experience to bear on some of the issues in our CUNY+ catalog. This could prove helpful for integrating our cataloging information into a discovery service.

Planning to continue her studies in Western and Asian literatures, she is also excited to avail herself of the natural and cultural offerings of New York City.

Welcome, Yoko!

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### Speaking up for the Wolves among Us....



**O**ne of the library's college assistants in Circulation, **Tynan Hoffman**, currently an MLS student at Pratt, received a recent honor, the "Stanley Feingold Award," given to a political

science student "based on a writing competition focusing on the American political system." He received this \$1,000 award for an undergrad policy brief he wrote on the gray wolves of Montana, which had been delisted from the Endangered Species Act and subsequently made a target in the 2009 hunting season. He wrote the paper urging that wolves receive continuing protection in the fall of 2009, just as the season was opening, so it was certainly topical. Congratulations, Ty!

### Quote of the Semester:

Overheard from **John Carrero**, the library's computer systems manager and father of two young readers:

**"Books are like Barbells for the Brain!"**

Well said, John... (especially from an IT guru!)

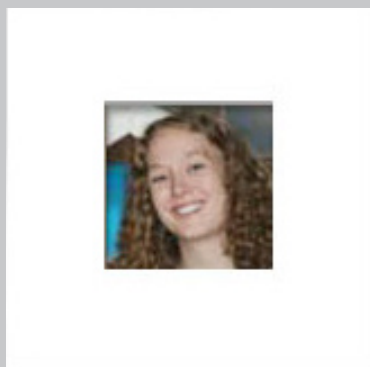
**New in the  
Architecture Library**

**COLOR COPIER**

**8.5x11 and 11x17 copies.**

**All are welcome!  
Spitzer 101**

## New Leadership for Gov Docs & Serials



**F**ormer substitute Government Documents & Serials Librarian Lena Marvin is now the Real Thing! Lena interviewed for and won the slot on a permanent basis just before the start of the fall semester. She follows the late Prof. Grace-Ellen McCrann in this position.

We're delighted to have Lena come aboard full time. Though from the Great Plains, she's City College & CUNY through and through. Lena graduated from CCNY's Macaulay Honors College in 2008 with a BA in philosophy, during which time

she devoted 15 credit hours focused on New York City, demonstrating her keen interest in her adopted home. Her honors thesis was "Software & the Philosophic Foundation of Intellectual Property Rights." Not only a graduate, Lena also worked at CCNY. She worked primarily at the University Transportation Research Center doing web programming, though her first job at CCNY was working as tech support for the campus libraries.

After graduation, she went to the Queens College Graduate School of Information and Library Science where she snagged a 3.975 GPA. Completing her MLS in 2009, Lena turned in a thesis entitled "Metadata Cataloging, Storage, & Retrieval of Multilingual Motion Picture Subtitles: an XML Digital Library." While in school, she worked as the collection cataloger at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute. Before being hired at CCNY, she worked as an adjunct CLT at CUNY's New York City Tech campus working in the Dean's Office of Technology and Design where she put together a Zotero citation database and managed over 100 individual citations for a National Science Foundation Grant proposal only 16 pages in length.

Lena may have sensed her future when, as a high school student in Lawrence, Kansas, she worked as a student aide in the cataloging division in the Watson Library at the University of Kansas. There is, however, another side of Lena—her media persona. Since 2006, she has co-hosted the Technicolor Radio Show, a technology talk show on Harlem Community Radio, broadcasting from our campus. In her words, her responsibilities as co-host include "witty banter," technology reviews, and audio production. Based on reports from those who've tuned in, Lena more than holds her own! You can catch her on Monday evenings on WHCR 90.3FM between 7 and 8 pm or streaming online at [www.whcr.org](http://www.whcr.org)

In speaking of her new position, Lena said, "I love my job. I'm working for an institution whose mission I believe in, in a city I've fallen for. My work is fulfilling, challenging, and rather fun. I'm lucky I get to coexist in the worlds of reference and cataloging and I didn't have to choose between the two. Government documents are as tricky as they are useful, and they can be very, very tricky."



## Sage Exhibit Goes Digital!

**T**he CCNY libraries' latest digital exhibit introduces The Russell Sage Foundation Library Collection: [www.ccny.cuny.edu/library/Exhibitions/sage](http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/library/Exhibitions/sage).

This online exhibit, which reprises the 2007 exhibit in the Cohen Library's Atrium, traces the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Sage, the foundation they created, and its library collection housed in the college's Cohen Library.

The exhibit begins with a presentation of the interests and careers of the founder, Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage, and of her financier husband, Russell Sage, for whom the foundation was named. It then focuses on the philanthropic efforts of the organization, documented in the foundation's library, which was used by those engaged in the emerging profession of social work during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1949 the foundation moved and its library collection was donated to the New York School of Social Work (now the Columbia University School of Social

Work) and the Cohen Library, which received 40 thousand volumes and 100 thousand pamphlets and reports. This collection includes the foundation's publications as well as other relevant periodicals from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that would be of use to scholars conducting research on the field of social work during these time periods. Some of the collection has been cataloged and is now accessible through the online catalog, CUNY+. Access to the remainder of the collection is made possible by the card catalog in the Cohen Library Archives Reading Room, open weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For an appointment, please contact archivist Professor Sydney Van Nort, at (212) 650-7609.



Daisy Dominguez  
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## Memorial Resolution for Grace-Ellen McCrann

- Whereas,** Grace-Ellen McCrann was a tireless advocate and goodwill ambassador for government documents, encouraging everyone to consider them a primary source for almost any subject; and
- Whereas,** Grace-Ellen McCrann received her Masters in Library Science from North Carolina Central University; and
- Whereas,** Grace-Ellen McCrann was well known for her resource collections series, Government Views of...which included web pages on such timely subjects as the Iraq war, SARS, the Rosenberg Spy Case, and D-Day; and
- Whereas,** Grace-Ellen McCrann was author of numerous articles and book chapters oriented toward the use of government information, including management and preservation; and
- Whereas,** Grace-Ellen McCrann recently curated the exhibit currently on view in the Cohen Library Atrium, *The Cold War: Two Superpowers and their Spheres-of-Influence*; and
- Whereas,** Grace-Ellen McCrann was an integral part of the City College of New York Libraries' information literacy program, teaching in the freshman inquiry series as well as a wide array of political science, legal studies, international studies, and public policy sessions; and
- Whereas,** Grace-Ellen McCrann was a member of many library organizations including: the American Library Association (ALA), ALA Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), ALA Government Documents Round Table (ALA-GODORT), ALA Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), Metro New York Government Documents Special Interest Group (METRO-GODIG), the Library Association of the City University of New York (LACUNY), Documents Association of New Jersey (DANJ), and served as vice president of the New York Library Club; and
- Whereas,** Grace-Ellen McCrann tirelessly monitored and responded to posted inquiries on GovDoc-L, the national listserv for government information; now, therefore, be it,

**Resolved,** That the American Library Association (ALA):

1. Honors the memory of Grace-Ellen McCrann and her life-long practice of incorporating government information into library instruction and her academic work.
2. Provides copies of this resolution to her family and to the City College of New York Libraries.



Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Tuesday, June 29, 2010  
In Washington, DC

Keith Michael Fiels  
ALA Executive Director and ALA Council Secretary

## Click for Seventy Years of The Campus Newspaper!

These issues will be made available in a new database courtesy of the City College Library. *The Campus* newspaper covers City College events and people and has been doing so for over a century since its 1907 founding. Part of the mission of the library's Archives Division is to collect and preserve student publications including this paper.



The Campus—September 16, 1957.

Providing greater access to *The Campus* is now possible because of the library's summer 2010 contract with DataBank to digitally reproduce the paper's microfilm copies starting with September 1907 through June 1981. DataBank is a document management firm that provides digital conversion services as well as imaging systems and solutions. The PDF image files will be sequenced chronologically and accessible from the library's online "Articles via Databases" link. The CCNY History Research by Subject site and the Library Gallery site (currently in development) will also offer access. That history site, additionally, includes a link to the electronic issues of the current *Campus* under the "Newspapers" heading.

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## Langston Hughes Festival Collection

The City College Archives recently acquired the Langston Hughes Collection that provided the material for the current library exhibit, *The Langston Hughes Festival: A Celebration of African American Writers*. Co-curators, Professors Gordon Thompson, department of English and Director of the Langston Hughes Festival, and William Gibbons, reference librarian, selected items from the collection for this current exhibit on display in the Archives Gallery until December 31. The September 15 opening reception included a presentation by Edgar Nkosi White, City College Library writer-in-residence for 2010-2011. His reflections on his association with Langston Hughes included this piece of advice: "It was important to know where the best fish and chips restaurant was to be found in Harlem." Edgar also noted that he found inspiration from Hughes for his own literary efforts.

The Langston Hughes Festival was conceived in 1973 to showcase and celebrate both the works of the well-known African-American poet laureate Langston Hughes and also to present the great writers of the African-American experience, as well as literary artists of African descent from the international commu-



Display cases in Archives hold a number of items from the Langston Hughes Festival Collection.

nity. The festival was directed and sustained by Professor Emeritus and prolific poet Raymond R. Patterson from 1977 to 2001 during his twenty-five years with the English Department. The festival debuted in 1977 with the Langston Hughes Celebration in honor of what would have been Hughes' 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. The following year James Baldwin was the first of a distinguished group of African-American literary lions to be honored in the name of Langston Hughes at these festivals dedicated to the Harlem community in honor of Hughes' long time residence there.

Langston Hughes Festival programs had long been in the English department's files but it was not until 2009 that arrangements were made by Prof. Gibbons and Prof. Sydney Van Nort, Chief of the Division of Archives and Special Collections, with Prof. Thompson for the transfer of the festival memorabilia to the Archives. As a result, numerous program pamphlets, correspondence, research files, planning documents, posters, photographs and audio-visual recordings were available for selection by the curators. Professor Thompson had diligently collected and stored this material from the festival directors and the coordinators of the Choral-Speaking Festivals (held in tandem with the Langston Hughes Festival) prior to transferring it to the Archives. The collection was processed by former cataloging and metadata librarian, Emma

Curtis, a December 2009 MLS graduate of the Queens College School of Library and Information Studies. Selections from the collection will be incorporated online into the Langston Hughes Festival Collection at the City College of New York site in the CUNY Repository in DSpace, [dspace.nitfle.org/handle/10090/2801](http://dspace.nitfle.org/handle/10090/2801).

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**CCNY Library Faculty...** continued from page 1

In addition to his MLS, William holds a master's in urban planning. Hailing from Detroit, he has lived in Harlem for a number of years with his family and is plugged into that community. In 2005 he co-curated with Professors Judy Connorton, Chief of the Architecture Library, and Ethan Cohen, then in the School of Architecture, the exhibit, *Changing Streetscapes: New Architecture and Open Space in Harlem* which traveled to the Schomburg and elsewhere in the city. The extensive research undertaken for the exhibit was one of the factors that helped William put this FIQWS class together.

If the past is prologue, these three librarians will be teaching FIQWS going forward and may indeed, through their enthusiasm, encourage even more librarian colleagues to join them.



## The Friends of the City College Library

We are sincerely grateful to all those who have generously supported the City College Library this year. Private gifts play a crucial role, enabling the library collections to continue to grow. We wish to offer our donors special recognition for all they have done.

The gifts listed below represent the vital commitment of individuals to the library. Donors of both monetary gifts and collections are listed according to the total amount of their library donations.

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Mr. and Mrs. John Larkin  
Matthew Nagler and FIQWS 10023  
Ruth Henderson  
Kenneth Schlesinger  
Charles Stewart

This Donor Honor Roll lists gifts received by the library between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Please notify Library Development at (212) 650-7271 of any errors or omissions.

The City College Libraries mourn the loss of long-time Friend of the Library, Herbert Robinson '37.

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## Library Exhibits/ Events 2010/11

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### *What Not to Wear*

August 30 - December 31, 2010  
Cohen Library Atrium

### *Langston Hughes Festival*

August 30 - December 31, 2010  
Archives Gallery

### *The Literature of Prescription*

NLM Traveling Exhibit  
February 13 - March 26, 2011  
Cohen Library Atrium

### *Gobekli Tepe*

March 28 - June 10, 2011  
Cohen Library Atrium

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### Library Contact Information

Chief Librarian	650-7271
Archives	650-7609
Circulation	650-7155
Reference	650-7611-12
Architecture	650-8768
Music	650-7174
Science/Engineering	650-8246
VR Library/Architecture	650-8754
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