

A TIME OF CHANGE

We are pleased to bring you this issue of PageDown and information on events, projects, and initiatives taking place in the Queens College Libraries.

You will be introduced to our new Humanities Librarian, Nancy Foasberg, who joins us from the University of Pennsylvania. Nancy brings a fresh perspective on bibliographic instruction and teaching, reference and research services, and collection development. You will meet Hal Gross, a Lincoln collector who has donated his outstanding collection to the Library and who continues to bring in materials. You will also receive information about the iSkills test we are currently administering, our E-Reference service, and our upgraded Web sites, which have made it much easier for users to access our resources and find out about our services. And this issue also lists an exhibit in the Rotunda, and offers an update on what is taking place in the Art Library.

In addition I would like you to know about several renovations currently being planned for the Rosenthal Library. Thanks to grants from the President of the Borough of Queens, we are in the process of creating a 20-year Master Plan for the Libraries, which will include construction of several, long-needed updates to our 20-year-old building. We decided to focus the first phase of our renovation on projects that will have an immediate impact on the services and resources we provide our users. On Level Two, we will be building a new, state-of-the-art instruction classroom, which will accommodate 45 students. We also will be upgrading the electrical wiring on Level Two and increasing the number of computer workstations from 50 to 150. Finally, the floor will be the site of a new Copy Center, with full-service and self-service as options for our users. Throughout, we will have new, more comfortable and functional furniture.

On the main floor of the Library, Level Three, the Reference Collection will be relocated, and a new vista will be created to provide an unobstructed pathway to the magnificent windows and their beautiful views, which are now blocked by shelving. A new Information Desk and Research Services Suite will be constructed, and throughout the floor we will have new furniture and carpet. Although not funded by the Borough of Queens grant, the Twomey Lounge area on Level One will be outfitted with powered tables and new chairs that will provide more workspace for users who have their own laptops and need access to power outlets.



The Barbara and Michael Twomey Lounge

Our renovations are on the way. Our programs and projects are advancing. I think you will find the Queens College Libraries are moving forward. We are making progress thanks to our dedicated faculty and staff and, of course, our generous donors and benefactors. There is much more to be done—and much more you can help us with. Please stay involved!

Robert A. Shaddy,
Chief Librarian

Meet Nancy Foasberg: Humanities Librarian

Nancy Foasberg, our new Humanities



Librarian, has a definite philosophy on the value of studying literature in the college classroom. "In studying literature, the conversation that occurs is really the important

part," she said. "So much of it has to do with understanding what's been going on around an author or a work. Being able to do research and figure out what people are saying about your author is essential."

Nancy asserts that her role in providing access to scholarship in the disciplines of Literature and Drama, Theatre, and Dance not only complements the curriculum but is vital to it. "Even at an undergraduate level, students should try to at least think the way a critic would. They need to read secondary sources and understand what the good ones are and how they relate to what they are trying to do to help them think about text," she said.

As Humanities Librarian, Nancy offers much hands-on knowledge of familiar and highly regarded resources in the humanities, such as JSTOR, Project Muse, and the MLA Bibliography, as well as a brand-new digital resource, and OAIster (Open Archives Initiative), <http://www.oaister.org/>, which is a union catalog of digital resources. "When I was doing research into digital resources," Ms. Foasberg said, "I was most impressed. OAIster searches through deep Web resources that Google does not search. The resources are concentrated and authoritative." OAIster, which is represented by a pearl icon, provides an efficient and streamlined path to relevant sites because it provides access by "harvesting" metadata, including databases, library collections, and digitized texts.

Before arriving at Queens College, Nancy served as an intern in the Weigle Information Commons in the Van Pelt



Library at the University of Pennsylvania. She has taught elementary and advanced writing composition at Gloucester County College, the Community College of Philadelphia, Camden County College, and California State University at Chico. She received her Master of Arts in English at California State University at Chico in 2004, and her Master of Science in Library Science at Drexel University in 2007.

An avid reader, Nancy has a varied palate, including both history and fiction. She recommends *The Age of Gold* by H.W. Brands, a history of the California Gold Rush. Another read on her list is *Stardust* by Neal Gaiman. "He is a highly regarded fantasy author who takes this very traditional fairy-tale story to find his heart's desire, but along the way the entire picture changes," she said.

Although students may not appear to be reading as much as they have in the past, according to a 2007 NEA report (<http://www.nea.gov/research/ToRead.PDF>), Nancy believes that college students are still partaking of this enriching and intellectually rewarding pursuit. "What we are really talking about here is the reading that we think they should be doing versus what they are actually reading. I think there will always be a place in our culture for good books, and there will always be a demand for them. As far as students go, a big part of it is to see and find what is relevant to them. They are not all going to fall in love with reading for the sake of reading, but some of them will."

Enthusiastic about the college's strong student-centric mission, Nancy is excited about being the newest family member at Rosenthal. "It's cool," she said. "Everyone in the Library has been really collegial." We think our new Humanities Librarian is cool, too.

Lisa Flanzraich, *PageDown* Editor

The Library Instructional Services unit of the Library has recently launched an instructional Web site. Called "Instruction@Queens College Libraries," it is a teaching tool for those seeking to learn more about the research process. Designed to complement and supplement face-to-face teaching, it was created with first-year students in mind so that they can bolster their information literacy acumen.

Instruction@Queens College is comprised of flash tutorials, graphics, self-checking quizzes, and other related links. The student can review several tutorials on CUNY+, database searching, how to select and evaluate information, as well as consider the legal and ethical issues concerning information dissemination.

Our Web site incorporates the CUNY Information Competency Tutorials (http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Library/research/instruction/tutorial/cuny_tutorial) and is customized to our library's resources and methodology. Let us know what you think. Contact Prof. Alexandra de Luise at alexandra.deluise@qc.cuny.edu or 718-997-3748.

Alexandra de Luise
Coordinator, Instructional Services



NEW LIBRARY WEB SITE DESIGN

The Library launched a newly designed Web site in early August. To present Library resources, services, and information as clearly as possible, the Web site is composed of five top-menu sections: Research, Services, Collections, About Us, and Contact Us. The contents of each section can be reached by clicking on the name (e.g., About Us) or by

moving the mouse over the name. Once an internal page is selected (e.g., Maps) the side-menu displays the other pages available in the same section.

To facilitate easy access to frequently needed items, the side menu has the following permanent features: Quick Links (Course Reserves, Connect from Home, etc.), a mini CUNY+ Catalog Search, and a mini Library Hours table. A "sitemap" at the bottom of the page links to every part of the Web site.

Although the redesign of the Web site was a collaborative effort by all the librarians, thanks in particular go to Professors Noel Agnew, Michael Miller, and Jennifer Oates, the Web site design group, for their valuable contributions. Special thanks is given to Mr. David Williams, the Library Web designer & programmer, who transformed the group's sometimes rough & ready ideas into tasteful and coherent form.

The Library hopes the new Web site will help students and faculty in their work here at the college, and invites comments or suggestions through its Comments form (Contact Us, Comments) or via email to james.mellone@qc.cuny.edu.

James T. Mellone
Coordinator of Web Resources

ASK-A-LIBRARIAN

Our Ask-a-Librarian service Web site has been redesigned for your convenience. Our Librarians are happy to answer your research and reference inquiries via email. Go to <http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Library/research/emaillibrarian.php> where you will find a form to submit your questions. An expert bibliographer in the relevant discipline will be assigned to your inquiry. Except for holidays and weekends, we will aim to send replies within 48 hours.

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Lisa Flanzraich, Editor with the Publications Committee: Dr. Robert Shaddy, Rolf Swensen

Contributors: Alexandra de Luise, Lisa Flanzraich, Shoshana Kaufmann, James Mellone, Dr. Robert Shaddy, Dr. Suzanna Simor, Dr. Rolf Swensen

Photos: Nancy Bareis

We'd like to hear from our readers. Please address your suggestions or comments about PAGEDOWN to Chief Librarian Robert Shaddy at robert.shaddy@qc.cuny.edu.

And watch for our next issue.

ALL WE NEED ARE A FEW GOOD FRIENDS

At Queens College we are proud of our friends. You can help by becoming a friend of the Library today! If you are already a friend, please share this newsletter with a friend or colleague. We thank you for your donation.

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Please make your check payable to Queens College Foundation/Rosenthal Library. Donations of \$50 or more allow borrowing privileges.

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Student Assessment Comes to QC Libraries



Queens College students who have 30 credits and above are being invited to take part in a test of their information literacy and computer technology fluency

skills. Called the iSkills test, it assesses whether students know how to find answers to problems using scenario-based questions that are task oriented (14 short tasks take 4 minutes each and one task takes 15 minutes). The test is about 75 minutes in duration, and students are tested and scored in 7 key areas: define, access, evaluate, manage, integrate, create, and communicate information.

The Educational Testing Service is the creator of the test, and several CUNY libraries—at both senior and community colleges—are taking part in it. The test results, both cumulative and individually by campus, will tell us much about our students' abilities, as will our pre-test questionnaires, which will provide useful demographics. Our collective goal is to ascertain student readiness to successfully navigate, critically evaluate, and make use of information. The test is nationally recognized by library and testing professions, and is aligned with the American College & Research Libraries, Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education.

Once the test-taking period ends in early 2009, we will eagerly await the test results so that we may have a true picture of our students' abilities and information literacy skills.

Faculty can help us by encouraging their QC students with 30 credits and above to register to take the test. **Please tell them to get in touch with us.** Because the test requires a controlled environment on a QC computer with a proctor present, testing is done in the Library on various days of the week. Students can select from our schedule of dates/times or propose their own. Every student who takes the iSkills test will be entered into a drawing. We have one prize of \$200 and five prizes of \$100!

As a bonus, students who complete the test will get a customized, confidential report sent to them via email of their iSkills test performance that they can use to learn more about their own computer and information literacy skills.

To learn more, contact Prof. Alexandra de Luise in the Library at 718-997-3748. Students may register online via SurveyMonkey at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=aAZcNiH9FkmAJ26YYHcMnQ_3d_3d

*Alexandra de Luise
Coordinator, Instructional Services*

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

For the first time in the history of Queens College, a new club, Student Friends of the Library was established. They plan to help older volunteers at the November book sale and publicize library services among Queens College students. They also will assist in fund-raising.

Thanks to a generous grant from a Queens College alumna and her husband, plans have been drawn for a special collection area on the main floor. It will include a SMART classroom for Graduate School of Library & Information Studies students in the Archival program, World War II, and Civil Rights Project researchers.

The Queens College Retirees Association and Auxiliary Enterprise Association have made a generous contribution toward the purchase of furniture for a laptop lab adjacent to the Twomey Lounge.

We are delighted to have received the library of the late Dr. Paul Avrich, Distinguished Professor of History and a world-renowned authority on anarchism. The Lucius Littauer Foundation has again renewed its grant to the Library and the Jewish Studies Program for the purchase of Holocaust-related materials. Friends of the Library have given an \$8,000 gift to the Library, part of which was raised in their semi-annual book sales.

Shoshana Kaufmann

ANNUAL POETRY FEST

An SRO crowd packed the President's Conference Room #2 on November 20, 2008, where over fifty guests and President Muyskens listened to ten remarkable published poets reading from their work to a rapt audience. Our outstanding group of readers included: Nicholas Alexiou; Ryan Black; Pierre Gazarian; Mary Lindberg; Wayne Moreland; Marie Ponsot; Carolyn Raphael; Roger Sedarat; and Harriet Zinnes.

We were especially proud to welcome back QC English Professor Emeritus and First Poet Laureate of the Borough of Queens, Dr. Stephen Stepanchev. This event—organized by esteemed Professor of English William Green, with the cooperation of the English Department, and Joe Brostek, Director of Events—was enjoyed by students, faculty, and the public. A Q & A session concluded the readings.



BOOK SALE

The 2008 Fall Friends of the Library Semi-Annual Book Sale was a huge success, netting much-needed funds for new books. This semester, we had an unusually good collection of gift books from the libraries of the late Distinguished Professor of History Dr. Paul Avrich and former Queens College President Saul B. Cohen, as well as a fine collection of art books.

We had the invaluable and dedicated help of many stalwart and loyal volunteers, who have been with us for many years. In addition, we were thrilled to welcome the enthusiastic Student Friends of the Library Club, a newly formed component of our volunteer corps. Proceeds from the sale, where buyers got bargains ranging from 50 cents to a dollar, supplement our book budget. Endless thanks to all our staff members, volunteers, and especially our super-volunteer, retired Professor Lois Afflerbach for her tireless coordination of this event.

90 Years and Counting



Dr. Robert Shaddy, Hal Gross, Dr. Rolf Swensen, and Shoshana Kaufmann

On September 16, 2008, members of the Library staff gathered to honor Hal Gross on his 90th birthday. Our birthday festivities included remarks (by Chief Librarian Robert Shaddy, Deputy Chief Librarian Shoshana Kaufmann, Rolf Swensen, and Hal), refreshments, and presentation of a framed print of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, to hang in the Gross/Lincoln Collection in Alcove 2, on the main floor of Rosenthal Library.

A great Friend of the Library, Hal, a lifelong collector of Lincoliana, has not only given more than 600 books, journals, and documents on Abraham Lincoln, he has endowed the Gross/Lincoln Collection, and continues to bring in new gift books every week. We treasure those weekly visits. The collection is catalogued and available to students and faculty, and is the most extensive Lincoln collection in CUNY.



Abraham Lincoln reading Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet

I particularly enjoy taking Hal three times a year to the Lincoln Group of New York City, an association of Lincoln scholars and aficionados, where we hear leading writers on Lincoln give talks, answer questions, and join the group for dinner. Queens College is indeed fortunate to have Hal Gross as a benefactor and friend.

Rolf Swensen, Social Sciences Bibliographer

People Notes

Aldo Delgado was appointed to full-time status in Access Services, Collection Management Unit, in the Spring of 2007 after having steadily risen through library job titles over his years here at the college. He is a 2004 QC graduate, earning a BA in accounting & information systems and economics. He intends to further his education by pursuing a master's degree in accounting. He enjoys the academic environment and the diverse group of people with whom he works.

David Reyes came to Access Services in the Spring of 2007 after earning his associate degree in accounting from LaGuardia Community College. He worked at LaGuardia as a college assistant in their media lab and also at the Queens Public Library in the circulation area. He intends to continue his educational pursuits, most likely in computer science or accounting. David has performed wonders with the binding and preservation unit here in Rosenthal.

Keith Eng joined Access Services in the Spring of 2008. He earned his associate degree in computer and information science from Queensborough Community College and intends to pursue further education in CIS or accounting. He enjoys the busy environment of Rosenthal Library and appreciates meeting and working with the many diverse people that stream past the circulation/reserve desk.

Helen Allocca currently manages the reference office in Rosenthal Library. She likes the diverse responsibilities that come with that position. She came to the Library in the Summer of 2007, where she began in Media/Access Services. Before that time, she worked in the Provost's Office. Helen studied secretarial science at Queensborough Community College and has been with the college for a total of 16 years.

QUEENS COLLEGE ART CENTER

ART BOUNTY



Barbara Roux, *Sea Change*, color photograph, 2007

The period of 2007–2008 was outstandingly generous to the Art Library and the Queens College Art Center in donations of research resources and artwork for the benefit of the college community.

Thanks to these gifts, the Art Library added over 4,000 items to the collections, in addition to purchased materials. The gifts include major collections on Italian Renaissance art from the library of the late Professor James H. Beck, of Columbia University; books on 19th- and 20th-century art from the library of the late Dr. Taube Greenspan, who taught Art History at QC in the early-1980s; core art monographs and catalogs given by Dr. Michael Timko, QC Professor Emeritus (English), and Mrs. Joy Timko, QC MFA '65; and publications donated by the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, faculty, and friends. We are grateful to our donors, and welcome you to use the materials—most of which are already on the shelves.

The college's art collection has been enriched by 46 artworks donated to the Art Center by their artists:

- **Sid Kerner**, the acclaimed New York City photographer, donated his entire exhibition, *Face to Face: From See to Shining See*, the first artist to make such a gesture.
- Works from *Light to Dark: Paintings and Works on Paper* by **Margery Edwards** were donated by the artist's husband.
- **Barbara Roux** donated two photographs from her exhibition, *Brush with Nature: Installation Art*.
- **Suzanne Benton**, QC '56, whose jubilee exhibition *Face & Figure: Selected Works, 1955–2005* we presented three years ago, has donated a sculpture for the Rosenthal Library.
- Six works by **Margery Edwards** and **Herbert Aach**, the late QC Professor Emeritus (Art), were donated through the Art Center to the Godwin-Ternbach Museum.

The new artwork will be shown in rotating exhibitions or installed in the building for the pleasure of all. Visit and enjoy.

*Suzanna Simor (on sabbatical leave 2008/2009)
Coordinator of Art and Music Library Services
Director, Art Center—part of Queens
College's Kupferberg Center for the Arts*

EXHIBIT

Barham Rotunda Gallery | December 1, 2008–January 31, 2009

WILLIAM SAROYAN EXHIBIT: A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND WORKS OF WILLIAM SAROYAN ON THE CENTENNIAL OF HIS BIRTH

Curated by:
Margaret C. Tellalian-Kyrkostas,
Director of the Anthropology
Museum of the People of New
York and the Armenian Cultural
Educational Center Gallery
(Contact: anthroarmen@aol.com)

Author of *The Time of Your Life* and *The Human Comedy*, among countless other works, Saroyan is—and has been for generations—a shining talent for Americans and Armenians throughout the world.



William Saroyan, 1940

ART CENTER HIATUS

The Queens College Art Center is pausing for facility renovations and upgrades during the 2008–2009 season. After 20 years in the Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, 146 exhibitions and many more related programs, we look forward to reopening stronger than ever in 2009–2010.

The 2009–2010 season will introduce a new presentation focus, aimed at responding to the contemporary dialogue of art and the public. The programming we are shaping includes installation, drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, works on paper, photography, and new media. These exhibitions and their programs will touch on multiple themes that engage the arts today.

We are eager to enter our third decade in the Rosenthal gallery and look forward to welcoming you in a renewed Queens College Art Center in 2009. Please continue to check our Web site for developing plans and updates: http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Art_Library/artcenter.html

*With warm good wishes,
Suzanna Simor, Director
Alexandra de Luise, Curator
Tara Mathison, Assistant Curator
Mollie Moskowitz, Office Manager*