Faculty Spotlight: Sarah Aponte

Sarah Aponte, Chief Librarian at the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute Archives and Library at City College, recently earned tenure status and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. In addition, Prof. Aponte recently received the José Toribio Medina Award for her book *Autores dominicanos de la diáspora: apuntes bio-bibliográficos (1902-2012)* co-authored with Franklin Gutierrez. The award was presented at the 59th annual conference of the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) in Salt Lake City. It recognizes outstanding contributions by SALALM members to Latin American Studies. She was the first recipient of the award since 2009.

In May, Prof. Aponte hosted the library faculty and staff at DSI for an engaging presentation on Dominican history and culture as part of CCNY Libraries Professional Development Day. She also gave a demonstration of *Dominican Landmarks*, a public site dedicated to recording places, objects and events named after a Dominican historical or cultural figure.

Prof. Aponte says one of her professional goals is to encourage more Latinos to become librarians. “As one of only a few Dominicans in the United States trained in Library Science, and someone who specializes in Dominican Studies, I can attest to the importance of recommending Latino students to pursue a degree in the field. The Latino population in the U.S. is growing and will continue to grow. We need more Latino professionals both for their own advancement and to be role models for future generations.”

Prof. Aponte is also on the board of directors at a Yoga Center in Queens. She practices meditation daily in order to stay focused while juggling her many roles and projects. She also stresses the importance of being passionate about the work she takes on. “I am also surrounded by great people at the professional and personal level.”

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New Online Resources

**JSTOR XI & XII**
Over 300 new journal titles in the Arts & Sciences added

**One Search**
CCNY’s new unified search

**Palgrave Connect**
Our new ebook collection

**World Scholar Latin America and the Carribean Archives**
A rich collection of primary sources, journals, audio/visual and more

Visit the CCNY Libraries Databases A-Z webpage for more information.

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Recent Acquisition: The John Johnson Collection
*By Ethan Gates, Archives Intern*

Archives and Special Collections was thrilled this summer to receive an invaluable donation of personal documents and audiovisual materials from John Johnson ‘61, an Emmy-Award winning television journalist and a recipient of the CCNY Townsend Harris Medal in 1994.

Johnson had an illustrious and influential 30-year career of social action with WABC and WCBS, reporting on issues from the 1971 Attica State Prison riots to abuse in the NYC foster care system and veteran’s affairs; he retired in 1997 to focus on his family and personal career as a painter.

The collection, which includes Johnson’s reporter’s notebooks, correspondence, personal awards and broadcast videotapes, as well as unique objects and photographs from his many travels and encounters with prominent NYC and international figures, is a comprehensive record of the work of one of New York’s foremost television reporters and news anchors.

*From the Desk of the Chief Librarian*
*By Charles Stewart, Acting Chief Librarian*

The CCNY Library touches many lives. A quick look at our gate count shows over a million physical visits per year, including all our various branch libraries. Our home page shows over a quarter million visits per year, and our database usage shows very close to one million sessions. These are the orders of magnitude that our statistics reveal.

One particularly precious resource that has emerged in all of this is the continuing value of student study space, both quiet and group, especially in consideration of our largely commuting student body. In servicing students, we are about to re-start our 24/7 hours for final exams. This has proven helpful for many, providing a secure area for completing studies. Many of our freshmen students have benefited from our Information Literacy sessions, while we endeavor to reach out little by little to extend our orientations to upper-level classes and beyond. We added a special new link on our home page to encourage requests for these classes.

For teachers, one of our main services traditionally has been course reserves, which we continue to support through special funding for textbook initiatives. One internal change that will be coming is moving our internal handling of reserve books into a new module of our integrated library system. This system recently upgraded, and we are still working out some of the issues of bringing our practices into conformity with the new suggested procedures.

In the area of research, CUNY has provided a new discovery tool called “OneSearch.” This is in beta-stage, yet I encourage you to try it out. Look for it on our home page or filed under O in the Databases A-Z list. It provides both articles and books in a combined results list. There are some initially strange indicators and links, but it can bring together many currently available full-text materials. Also, we are in discussions with the School of Biomedical Education regarding establishing a virtual Medical School library, and considering how to address some of the new research needs that the two new science buildings on South Campus will bring. Much of the vision for the library is about supporting the vision of the College. A new Strategic Plan is being formulated to take us through the next seven years to 2022. The key term that has emerged for the College is “comprehensive,” and the library will further this plan by touching all.

As a final note, I wish to thank most heartily our outgoing Circumspice Editor of 21 years, Prof. Judy Connorton, and welcome our new incoming editor, Mr. Michael Crowley. I wish to thank all our staff, users, supporters, and friends for making this such an active and productive work and study place.
Cross Collaboration at the Library
By Katie Cheng, Student Assistant

This Fall 2014 semester, the City College Libraries continue the Biology Animation Assistantship program with a new interdisciplinary team of students with science and art backgrounds. The students - Lenn Hypolite (Electronic Design Multimedia major), Rafay Malik (Electronic Design Multimedia), Katie Cheng (Studio Art major, Biology minor), and Advait Apte (Chemical and Life Science Engineering PhD, current Economics Masters) – work collaboratively in conjunction with Professor Hysell Oviedo, Biology department, and Professor Ching-Jung Chen, Visual Resources Librarian, on illustrating and animating the process of synaptic transmission on a cellular level by modeling how neurons in the brain communicate with each other.

Students teach each other on science concepts and computer programs needed to make the animations, including Adobe Photoshop, AfterEffects, and Cinema40. The goal is to use these student-created works as easily accessible teaching tools in and out of the classroom.

Staff Changes

Judy Connorton, Chief of the Architecture Library and Associate Professor, has stepped down as the editor of Circumspice after 21 years of faithful service.

Tina Law-Walls was hired as the new Cataloging Data Specialist. She had worked in the Admissions office previously and earned her Bachelor’s in Music Production from CCNY.

Taida Sainvil was hired as the new Office Assistant at the Architecture Library. She has worked there since 2009 while earning her Bachelor’s in Anthropology.

Nilda Sanchez will be substituting as the Chief Librarian at the Center for Worker Education this year while Prof. Scanlon is on sabbatical. Prof. Sanchez earned two Master’s degrees while working as the Architecture Library’s Office Assistant.

Nelson Santana left CCNY to pursue a PhD at Rutgers University. He had previously worked at the Dominican Studies Institute while earning his second Master’s.

Seamus Scanlon, Chief Librarian at the Center for Worker Education, is on sabbatical this year. He is spending this Fall at La Muse Writer and Artist Retreat in southern France working on an upcoming novel. His set of plays The McGowan Trilogy debuted this past October at The Cell Theatre in Manhattan. He also released a new book of short stories called As Close as You’ll Ever Be.
FALL EXHIBITIONS

Civil War 150
In May, CCNY Archives hosted a lecture series with Prof. Eric Foner and Prof. Martha S. Jones and moderated by Prof. Greg Downs held in conjunction with the traveling NEH, Library of America and Gilder Lehman exhibit “Civil War 150,” which was on display in the Cohen Library Atrium through June 16, 2014.

A Tapestry of Ideas
The City College of New York Art Alumni 2014 Summer Show featured works by fifteen artists in various mediums. The exhibit was organized by Randy Brozen (2001, MFA) and Olga Mikhлина (2007) and was curated by Lauren A. Berodt.

Artists in the Archives: A Collection of Card Catalogs
Three artists, working separately, transform library card catalogs into an art-form.

When Humanity Fails
Exhibit on events that led to creation and eventual liberation of concentration camps of WWII.

The Panama Canal
Celebrating 100 Years of a Man Made Marvel

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