Library Exhibit Honors CCNY Women Faculty

In Good Company: Celebrating 70 Years of Women Faculty at CCNY

Women faculty members have steadily gained a larger role and have expanded to all subject areas, making significant impacts through their research and teaching. Along the way, especially since the 1960s, gifted women faculty have won, among other achievements, prestigious national awards, gained distinguished professorships, earned accolades as Outstanding CCNY Teacher, and recently have been trumpeted by CUNY in its “Look Who’s Teaching at CUNY” city-wide advertising campaign.

In Good Company, while acknowledging the strong contributions of all its women faculty members, focuses on those full-time women faculty who have received particularly laudatory awards such as Distinguished Professor or achieved groundbreaking honors, such as that earned by Rosaria Piomelli, the first woman dean of any school of architecture in the United States. This exhibit highlights the biographies of 70 or so women faculty through seven decades.

Curators Professor Judy Connorton and Ms. Shea Taylor note that the women in the exhibit represent the many other women faculty who have previously taught and who continue to teach so well the students of the City College of New York.

In Good Company is on display in the Cohen Library Atrium from March 10 through June 10. The library invites students, staff, faculty, and visitors to learn about the accomplishments and awards of these remarkable women.
To paraphrase Snoopy – it was a grey and muddy afternoon when a team of librarians donned their work boots and hard hats and descended upon the new Architecture building construction site. It was a most informative visit, even though we mainly saw concrete, exposed studs and temporary electrical work. Accompanied by the thump, thump, thump of a pile driver working just outside, we inspected every inch of the new Architecture and Architecture Visual Resources library spaces, and are eagerly anticipating the opening of these new facilities. See the longer story and photos elsewhere in this issue.

And more on facilities –
• The entrance through Cohen Library into what was once the Library Café and then more recently the temporary home of the Dominican Studies Institute Library has been permanently sealed up. The new DSI Library entrance will be off the south elevator lobby corridor on the second floor of the NAC.
• Physical Plant Services has upgraded and improved the overhead lighting in reading areas of the Science/Engineering Library.
• The 4th floor of Cohen Library has just been freshly painted.
• By the time you read this, you should be seeing significant upgrading of the seating in both Cohen and the Science/Engineering libraries, as we implement a major chair replacement project funded by the president’s office.

The recent flood on the 1st and 2nd floors of Cohen Library, while big and messy, resulted in minimal damage. Books were moved out of harm’s way and our Physical Plant Services personnel were immediately on site to contain and clean up the impacted areas.

The college is bringing in a consultant to work with us in envisioning the possibility of creating a learning commons in Cohen Library in the near future. As the way users access information and use resources changes, our spaces should change to facilitate this use, and the consultant will advise us on a variety of options.

Don’t forget to join us for our National Library Week event featuring Prof. Harriet Alonso (history and CWE) on Thursday, April 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the Archives. Prof. Alonso has just published Robert E. Sherwood: the Playwright in Peace and War.

She says, “Sherwood was a very sociable and loved character on the Broadway scene, a man of great wit and intelligence.” Her talk will highlight his relationships with such New York personalities as Robert Benchley, Dorothy Parker (and the Algonquin Roundtable), Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, and Spencer Tracy. A reception and book signing will follow the program.

And be sure to take some time to view our current exhibit in the atrium, In Good Company: Celebrating 70 Years of Women Faculty, which pays tribute to CCNY women faculty, past and present.

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, or by dropping by NAC 5/333 (Cohen Library).

The City College Libraries
and
The Rifkind Center for the Humanities and the Arts
cordially invite you to

Shakespeare’s New Clothes: The Bard as Autobiographer and Why the Shakespeare Authorship Controversy Matters
with
Mark Anderson

Thursday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m.

Journalist and author Mark Anderson spent a decade researching the life of Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, publishing articles on de Vere in Harper’s, The Boston Globe, and on PBS.org. He has also written articles on science, technology, the environment, the arts and politics for Rolling Stone, Wired, Discover, Science, New Scientist, National Geographic online, and many others. "Shakespeare" By Another Name is his first book.

Carnt Quigley, chairman of the 27th Annual Shakespeare Oxford Society conference in 2003, will join Mr. Anderson to mark the "Isabel Holsten Shakespeare Authorship Collection" donation to the City College Libraries.

Cohen Library Archives, 5th floor
Jennifer Smith (top) hugs former co-worker Carolina Johnson-Colon at Jenny’s well attended retirement party on February 8. She retired after 32 years of great service, the last few spent in the Science/Engineering Library.

Fellow library staffer Gladys Bacote made this special occasion cake to honor Jenny.


Colorful Apples by Gladys Bacote, Cohen Circulation staff member.

Ebe DeLeon, administrative assistant in the Office of the Chief Librarian, poses with her daughter Xena by Ebe’s La Casa de Mamá (1995).


Poster for the CCNY Women Make Art exhibit on display in the Cohen Library Archives until March 31. (Poster design by STIXXX, a CCNY student)

Part of senior art major Elan Ferguson’s 2006/2007 Good ‘Ol Days series.
Tentatively scheduled for a January 2009 move into new quarters in the current Y Building, soon to be renamed the School of Architecture, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture, the Architecture Library and Visual Resources staff are busy measuring, planning, weeding, and organizing.

It will be quite a move for a library collection of approximately 30,000 books from Shepard’s fourth floor and for the slides, cases, and equipment in the Visual Resources Collection from Shepard’s third floor via Shepard’s one tiny elevator down to new quarters on the South Campus. In preparation for the move, several librarians donned hard hats and joined the CUNY and DASNY project managers and others in early February for their first view of the interior space that will house the two library divisions, located in adjacent spaces on the Architecture School’s main floor.

The accompanying visual (top) shows the restored building as of this month and the location of the two divisions. The interior shot to the right depicts the Architecture Library’s two-story Reading Room which will be the library’s sweeping focal point. The Architecture Library, approximately three times its current size, will feature also an electronic classroom, a computer/copier room with scanner and printer, and a comfortably furnished, relaxing lounge in which students can peruse the latest architecture journals.

The Visual Resources Library includes staff offices, a faculty workroom, a digital processing area, and a photo room.

Both library divisions look forward to settling in and welcoming the college community into their fine new digs!
A New Face in Music

The library welcomes its newest faculty member, Professor Rebecca Koblick, as head of the Music Library in Shepard Hall.

Armed with her M.S. in library science from Simmons College, Rebecca worked in a variety of library positions, including that of cataloger of scores and books on music at Yale’s Music Library. Moving on, she next spent a number of years at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. While there Rebecca worked in reference, proofread bibliographic records for scores, and operated the Orchestra Circulating Collection, a lending library of performance materials for orchestras. She then joined the library’s Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound where she selected books and serials for the archives and maintained its online serials file, among other responsibilities.

Now at City College, Rebecca writes that, “I look forward, perhaps naively, to re-entering academic life. I’m excited about further developing the CCNY Music Library to serve the Music Department and the college community as a whole, sharing whatever expertise I may have gained in my previous positions and representing CCNY in the wider world of music librarianship.”

Come celebrate National Library Week
Thursday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Cohen Library Archives!

Prof. Harriet Alonso (History and CWE) will speak about her just published book, *Robert E. Sherwood: the Playwright in Peace and War (2007).* Her talk will highlight his relationships with such New York personalities as Robert Benchley, Dorothy Parker (and the Algonquin Roundtable), Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, and Spencer Tracy.

Prof. Alonso says, “Sherwood was a very sociable and loved character on the Broadway scene, a man of great wit and intelligence.”

Don’t miss this special event!

Correction: In the cover article, “From CCNY to China,” in the Fall 2007 issue of Circumspice (no.75 n.s.) Avi Shalem was incorrectly identified as a member of the Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity.
CCNY Libraries Offer a Virtual ‘New Look’

Returning for the Spring Semester, users discovered that the City College Libraries home page had a completely different look.

Gone is the familiar “purple box” known as “Quick Links” that led the user to the CCNY online research databases. The two-column table the user then saw designated the databases as either full-text or not, with very little added information -- helpful, but not sufficient, the library thought, for users’ needs.

The new link replacing Quick Links, “Research by Subject,” directs patrons to search for databases and other Web information arranged by the subject they’re researching. Whether they’re looking for research sources in architecture, economics, psychology, women’s studies or many other areas, users will find relevant, trustworthy sites to aid them in their online research. Subject specialist librarians will update and add to these resources regularly.

If a user wants to go directly to the wealth of databases arranged in alphabetical order rather than by subject, she can click on “Databases A to Z” and zero in on the database of interest.

Students can locate online Reserves also on the “Research by Subject” screen which additionally offers trial databases and online help in “How to Use the Library.”

In addition to pointing to general CCNY information, the new home page highlights current library happenings and will host an upcoming blog open to all.

Library Exhibits/Events 2008

In Good Company: Celebrating 70 Years of Women Faculty at CCNY
March 3 - June 10
Cohen Library Atrium

City College Women Make Art
March 6 - 31,
Cohen Library Archives

Shakespeare’s New Clothes: The Bard as Autobiographer and Why The Shakespeare Authorship Controversy Matters with Mark Anderson
Thursday, March 27, 6:30 p.m.
Cohen Library Archives

Semi-Annual Book Sale
Thursday, April 10, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
NAC Rotunda

National Library Week
April 14 - 18

Thursday, April 17, 5:30 p.m.
Cohen Library Archives

Why Structures Fail: Challenges to Engineering Marvels
June 15 - August 30
Cohen Library Atrium

CCNY in the Lincoln Brigade
Cohen Library Rear Atrium

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
Slide Library/Architecture 650-8754
Slide Library/Art 650-7175