Greetings from the Chief Librarian

The beginning of Fall 2011 semester has been quite eventful -- caught unawares by the tremors of the August 24 earthquake in VA, but braced for the touchdown of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene on August 28! Nevertheless, I am pleased to report that the stacks did not buckle nor did we experience any serious water damage, thankfully, from these historic events. We hope that you are all excited as we are to get the semester underway, regardless of the shaky beginnings.

The CSI Library had a productive year that has been documented in the 2010/2011 Annual Report. Highlights include several initiatives: a three-day citation clinic on formatting and citing with APA, MLA, and Chicago manual writing styles; the integration of a self-checkout system that allows patrons to check out books from the circulating collection (3rd floor stacks); the establishment of a peer-to-peer student library security program to monitor noise level and behaviour of patrons in the Library; and the two week pilot of 22 hours of library hours during Spring 2011 final examination.

In our pursuit of monitoring the impact in library services with regards to 14.5 extended hours of services, we conducted a five-questionnaire poll Spring 2011, from March 1 to May 26, 2011. Patrons were not shy in sounding off, which generated some interesting data. Out of 432 respondents,

- 36% responded that the library hours were “fine as is,” however 26% responded that the library “should be open 24 hours a day during midterm and final exams.”
- 64% of the respondents ranked “To find a quiet place to study or read” as the #1 reason for frequently visiting the library after 10pm.
- When asked what college services did they expect to be available after 10pm, 67.8% ranked Security/Public Safety as #1, 53.7% ranked Food Services as #2, 52.5% ranked Technical Support (computer/email logins, wireless networking, BlackBoard) as #3, and 46.3% ranked Transportation Services (loop bus, ferry shuttle) as #4.

Nevertheless, with the extended hours, the library has experienced an increase in the average number of patrons in the Library between the hours of 7pm and 11pm. This increase has indirectly contributed to the increase in use of various resources as compared to the previous academic year, which can be attributed to the following:

- increase in use of the textbooks and circulating collections (11%),
- increase in use of study group rooms (26%),
- increase in use of calculators (174%), and
- increase in use of laptops (220%).

Major initiatives for the 2011/2012 include the merge of two services points (the Document Center and Circulation/Reserves Unit) to absorb the loss of staff and space; the restructuring of the library instruction program to include a prescribed curriculum for orientation, workshops, and information literacy sessions; and the relocation of the microform storage from the 1L building to an off-site location in 2M.
In the meantime, we expect to see you in the Library soon at one or more of our events this semester, which include a photographic exhibit of 9/11 in our newly renovated Library Gallery of the Volpe Rotunda through October; a lecture about the Seguine Mansion on Staten Island celebrating Archives History Day on October 13; the faculty Author Talks on November 10 where faculty will present the backstory of their recently published books; film screenings celebrating International Education Week from November 14-18; and several workshops where you can work in groups or one-on-one with librarians in effectively using specific electronic databases.

As always, I do encourage you to explore some of the new databases acquired during last year. A selection includes American Society for Microbiology Journals (12 journals in the field of microbiology), Chronicle of Philanthropy (includes trend analysis, and fundraising strategies, annual surveys on giving, foundations, executive salaries, and ranking of charities in the Philanthropy 400); IEEE Xplore (abstracts and select full-text of technical literature in electrical engineering, computer science, and electronics published by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers); Salem History (e-reference online about historical eras, events, and figures; and Salem Science (e-reference online from Salem Press concerning science and environmental issues).

If you have not discovered our Research Guides, please locate them on the homepage. Find your discipline and revel in the wealth of resources acquired to support your learning, research, and teaching at CSI. If there is one you need that is not on the list, do not hesitate to send me the title so that we can evaluate and consider it for the library’s collection.

Here’s to a productive and successful 2011 fall semester!

Cheers!

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Citations! Citations!

Last April 14 during the Spring Semester, members of the Library faculty, in collaboration with members of the English department’s Writing Program (Professor Kelly Bradbury, Deputy Director), ran a hands-on Writing and Citation Workshop for the faculty teaching the college writing courses, specifically English 111 and 151.

The workshop’s main goal was to highlight the library resources and services that necessarily come into play in the research and writing process when properly attributing sources.

Professor Rebecca Adler Schiff began the workshop by outlining the significant revisions and new guidelines found in the latest (seventh) edition of the MLA (Modern Language Association) Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.

She went on to demonstrate the citation features found in databases such as Academic Search Premier, Opposing Viewpoints, and Literature Resources from Gale, cautioning along the way that judgment was nonetheless necessary in their use.

The CSI Library’s Writing & Citation Guide, available on the homepage, was mentioned as an excellent source for students looking for information about plagiarism, writing styles, and citation tools. Professor Amy Stempler demonstrated the benefits of the free online citation generators KnightCite and Citation Machine. She also showed how to export citations using the bibliographic management tool RefWorks.

The presentations concluded with Professor Judy Xiao’s demonstration of the plagiarism prevention tool TurnItIn. Workshop participants also learned that the Library was inaugurating a Library Citation Clinic open to all students to take place during finals week of every semester, of which the very first took place May 3, 4, and 5, 2011.
Our next Citation Clinic will be held during the week of Finals on **December 12-14, and 19-21**. Please visit the Library’s web site at [www.library.csi.cuny.edu](http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu) for more details on location and times.

For more information please contact:

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**Portrait of the CSI Library Donated CSI Graduate Eithne Byrne McGowan**

In Fall 2010, the CSI Library received a delightful gift in the form of a three-year loan of a framed portrait of the library.

A 2010 graduate of the College of Staten Island, Eithne Byrne McGowan first discovered her love for the visual arts as a child in the green fields of her native Ireland.

She immigrated to Staten Island in 1991, where she put her career as an artist on the back burner while she simultaneously worked, raised three daughters, and pursued her college degree.

With her degree completed and her children mostly on their own, Eithne is back to work as an artist, pursuing such diverse projects as en plein air paintings in the Impressionistic style, portraits of buildings, including a series on the library at CSI, and an apprenticeship as an iconographer.

For Byrne McGowan, the Library reflects her experience of study, spending many an hour reading, analyzing, and researching. Not only is it a beautiful building surrounded by a verdure setting (a painter’s delight), but the philosophical analogy of the Library as the central nervous system of learning. The Library represents a place where knowledge is formulated to create bright new ideas for a bright new future for new generations.

The series of paintings of the Library comprise the four seasons, starting with the first painting titled; **Autumn Colors at CSI**. The second is titled; **Winter Reflections**, third; **Spring Blooms at CSI**, and lastly, **Brilliant Summer Hues**. Each rendering of the Library will take on a new perspective where local colors are vibrant and abundant with a colorist palette that is constantly changing by the effects of sun light.

A person of great spirit and determination, Eithne urges other nontraditional students to pursue their dreams, saying, “Completing your education and pursuing the work you love makes every last struggle to get there worthwhile.”

Byrne McGowan’s inspiration for painting en plein air stems from her study and practice of color theory exercises and art history, which led her to her mentor, the great impressionist painter Claude Monet.

His style, palette, and painterly technique of using bright hues with their complementaries expressed the brightness and effects of sunlight on the natural environment. With intensive study of selected works by Monet, Byrne McGowan learned how to apply his techniques to her own paintings. She learned to understand how light affects a motif at different times of day, season, and the influence of atmospheric conditions on local color. For more information on the artist please visit Eithne’s web site at [http://www.eithnebm.com](http://www.eithnebm.com)
Archives & Special Collections Hosts Three Events

The CSI Library Archives & Special Collections is host to three programs this semester, offering the CSI community a chance to discover Staten Island history and the activities of CSI faculty members.

On September 14, Professor Richard Flanagan of the Department of Political Science gave a talk in which he discussed the central issues of his upcoming book, *Staten Island Politics: a Conservative Bastion in a Liberal City*. Professor Flanagan touched on well-known issues, such as secession and the Fresh Kills Landfill, in addition to placing Staten Island’s conservative roots in the context of New York City as a whole.

In addition to Professor Flanagan’s talk, the Archives & Special Collections is pleased to announce two programs in the month of October. On October 13 at 1:30PM, we celebrated our 5th annual Archives History Day, with a lecture on Seguine House in Prince’s Bay. In preparation for a book about the 1830s mansion, Mary Bullock researched the structure and its history. She discussed the challenges she faced in identifying and using archival materials to find out about the house and the family who built and lived in it from more than 150 years. This event is being held in conjunction with SI 350 (the year long observance of the 350th anniversary of the settlement of Staten Island) and American Archives Month.

American Archives Month is observed nationally during October to celebrate and promote the rich documentary heritage of our nation and the importance of archival and historical records to our lives. Through exhibitions, lectures, receptions and other events the public is invited to archival repositories to get a glimpse of the letters, journals, and other materials that historians use in the writing of history.

On November 10 at 1:30 PM, the Archives & Special Collections will host a Faculty Author Talk. As a corollary to the library’s display of books authored by CSI faculty and staff, the Archives & Special Collections hosts events during club hours each semester to give authors a chance to talk briefly about the research that went into their book.

This semester’s authors include: Prof. Irina Lyublinskaya and Prof. Judit Kerekes (Department of Education), Prof. Edward D. Miller (Department of Media Culture), and Prof. Nan M. Sussman (Department of Psychology).

For more information, please visit our web site at [http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/archives/index.htm](http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/archives/index.htm)

You may also wish to contact:

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New Gallery Space Hosts 9/11 Exhibit

On display in the new gallery space of the Volpe Rotunda in the CSI Library was a photographic exhibition that commemorates the 9/11 recovery site at the Fresh Kills Landfill.

Building on its mission to document recent history on Staten Island, the CSI Library Archives & Special Collections embarked on a public information and archival documentation project to preserve historical resources that will aid future researchers to understand the immediate response of Staten Islanders to September 11, 2001.

As part of this on-going effort to document the story of Staten Islanders on 9/11, the CSI Library Archives & Special Collections holds a digital collection of photographs taken by Mark Schaming, Director of Exhibitions and Education at the New York State Museum, during his time at the Fresh Kills recovery site from 2001 to 2002. Schaming was granted access to the site in order to recover artifacts for the New York State Museum. The exhibition was on display from September 12 through October 11, 2011.

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This past Spring I participated in the CUNY Shanghai Library Faculty Exchange program where I spent 4 weeks at Shanghai University as a resident in the Library department. The program was made possible by CUNY's Office of Library Services and the Library Association of CUNY's International Relations Round Table, coordinated by Professor Kenneth Schlesinger, Chief Librarian at Lehman College.

I lived in the International Student Residence on the new Baochan campus of Shanghai University. My residency involved learning about academic libraries in China, teaching, and visiting other academic (and public) libraries in Shanghai and surrounding cities.

The Shanghai University Library system is comprised of three libraries on three campuses; the main library on the Baoshan campus, Wenhui Library on Yanchang campus and the Lianhe Library on Jiading campus. The library at the Yanchang campus was mostly used by graduate students and the library at the Jiading campus was mostly used by Science students. The branch libraries at the Jiading and Yanchang campuses were also structured into self-enclosed rooms with service desks in each room.

At the Baochan campus, there were information desks throughout the library building at the entrance to each department. The main floor's information desk functioned like a reception desk and very few students asked reference questions. Any research-related questions were referred to librarians in the Information Retrieval department, a department that is similar to our Reference Services department at the CSI Library. The Information Retrieval department also provides mediated literature searching and (non-credit) Library instruction classes.

My weekly working schedule included teaching, visiting academic institutions, and visiting other departments in the Library. I worked from 7:00am-2:00pm Monday to Friday. Most mornings I worked in the Library and in the afternoon I went on academic visits in the city. Some afternoons I shadowed librarians on the main floor reference desk. I also facilitated 4 workshops with Librarians and participated in conversations comparing the functions and activities of academic libraries in the United States with China.

In addition, I provided 16 hours of classroom instruction over the course of the month to students in the Library and Information Science program. The lecture topics were selected by the students.

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:00am-11:00am, I gave 2-hour lectures to approximately 10 students. Their English language skills were proficient and they were a lively group so early in the morning. Several lecture topics included Introduction to Information Literacy, Cloud Computing 101, Social Responsibility in U.S. Academic Libraries, and Library Liaisons in U.S. Academic Libraries. Many came to class with questions and the classes were interactive and dynamic.

I found the students at Shanghai University to be studious, courteous, and respectful. I also found that the Library made a clear distinction between student study space (without computers) and a designated space to access technology.

One of the most enjoyable parts of my residency was teaching. I enjoyed interacting with the students and giving lectures about various topics in U.S. academic librarianship.

When I was not working, I explored Shanghai's downtown in the early evening, and on weekends. I took 4-6 hour walking trips where I would follow the Metro (subway) lines and explore various neighborhoods in the City.

During my residency, I visited Zhejiang University in
In August 2011, CSI made the decision to switch from Turnitin to SafeAssign, a plagiarism prevention service offered by Blackboard at no additional cost to CUNY. SafeAssign helps instructors prevent plagiarism by detecting unoriginal content in student papers. The tool is integrated seamlessly into Blackboard courses, and requires no additional login.

Efforts to collaborate with faculty from various departments to incorporate course-related library resources, SafeAssignments, anti-plagiarism and citation instruction into Blackboard courses are underway. Several courses in Business and Nursing are in progress this semester.

If you are interested in working with a librarian to improve student learning and help students become life-long learners, please contact:

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Library Users Can Select eBooks with MyiLibrary Pilot Program

During the Fall 2011 semester the CSI Library will launch a Patron Driven Acquisitions (PDA) pilot program for MyiLibrary eBooks. PDA is an exciting new way that libraries are collaborating with patrons to build collections of eBooks for academic libraries.

Traditionally, librarians evaluated the collections held by their institutions and considered various factors, including academic programs offered, curricular concerns, and trends in scholarship when selecting new additions that they thought might someday be needed by patrons. Unfortunately, this method often led to the purchase of books that may never have been pulled from the shelf and used. With PDA library users have the opportunity to choose the books that they need at the moment when they need them. This also increases the likelihood that these books will be used by other patrons as well, instead of possibly sitting neglected as a record in the library’s online catalog as some books in the past sat on shelves collecting dust.
Here’s how PDA works: Librarians review their library’s holdings and the needs of their institution to create a collection profile. The librarians then work with eBook vendors to create extensive lists of titles in various subject areas based on the library’s collection profile.

All of the titles included can potentially be added to the library’s collections, but none are purchased unless used more than once. A bibliographic record for each eBook listed is then imported into the library’s catalog. If a patron searching for information on a topic finds a title from a PDA selections list, they can access the full text contents of the eBook immediately.

When the eBook is opened and used a second time, it is automatically purchased and added to the library’s collections. PDA has been used successfully to build useful collections of eBooks at the libraries of many college and universities worldwide.

This Fall information for MyiLibrary eBook titles will be entered into the CSI Library’s online catalog. We hope that many will be helpful in your research and that you find this new initiative rewarding. We appreciate your help in building and strengthening our collections.

For more information please contact:

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## Scholarly Activities of Library Faculty 2010/2011

The CSI Library Faculty continue to be active in scholarly activities which include publishing articles and books, seeking grants to support their research, and participating in regional, national, and international conferences and symposia. Below are some highlights of their accomplishments during the 2010/2011 academic year.

### Jonathan Cope

Transitioned from Instructor to Assistant Professor as of September 1, 2011, after completing his second graduate degree, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from the CUNY Graduate Center. He wrote a chapter entitled, “Information literacy and social power,” in the book Critical Library Instruction: Theories and Methods, 2010, edited by M.T. Accardi, E. Drabinski, & A. Kumbier. Cope also co-chaired the Library Association of CUNY (LACUNY) Instruction Committee Event entitled, "Critical Library Instruction: The Challenge of Practice,” held at the Graduate Center, CUNY, in April 2011. He also presented a paper entitled, "Critical thinking and the one-shot library instruction session: The challenge of 45 minutes,” at the SUNY Library Association’s Annual Conference, held at the College at Brockport, in Brockport, New York, on June 2010.

### Professor Ewa Dzurak

Was awarded a PSC-CUNY Grant, Research Award Program #40 for her research on comparative history of three Polish academic libraries. She wrote an article entitled, "Antecedents of Warsaw Public Library," from the journal, Library and Information History, volume 27(1), pages 17-31; co-authored with Kasprzyk Agnieszka, "Metamorphosis of academic libraries in post-communist Poland: Focusing on access,” that was published in the Journal of Academic Librarianship, volume 36, issue 4, pages 354-358.

### Professor James Kaser


Polger also facilitated a roundtable discussion with Professor Karen Okamoto (John Jay College, CUNY) entitled, "Librarians Who Promote: The Importance of Marketing and Public Relations in Academic Libraries," at the ACRL National Conference, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on March 30 – April 2, 2011. At the same conference, they presented a poster entitled, "Marketing & Outreach Librarian Job Advertisements: A Descriptive Analysis".

From May 4-June 4, 2011, Polger traveled to Shanghai, China to participate in the CUNY-Shanghai Library Faculty Exchange Program at Shanghai University. His residency was awarded by the Library Association of CUNY International Relations Roundtable and CUNY’s Office of Library Services.

**Professor Amy Stempler** presented a conference paper entitled, "New York’s Forgotten Jews," at the SI 350 Academic Conference/Education Symposium, held at the College of Staten Island/ CUNY, on March 20, 2011. She also presented a conference paper entitled, "The role of university presses in the publishing of Jewish Studies scholarship," at the Midwest Jewish Studies Association peer-reviewed conference, held at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, on October 10, 2010.

**Professors Judy Xiao, Deborah Goss, Mark Aaron Polger, Amy Stempler, and HEO Assistant Tony Gallego** wrote a proposal entitled, "CSI Library Information Literacy Online Tutorial Project," and were awarded a CELT Teaching with Technology Mini-Grant for 2011/2012. Xiao also wrote an article entitled, "Integrating Information Literacy into BlackBoard: Librarian-Faculty Collaboration for Successful Student Learning," from the journal, *Library Management*, volume 31, issue 8/9, pages 654-668. In addition, at the beginning of 2011, Xiao was elected for a one-year Presidential term for the Chinese American Librarians Association, Northeast Chapter (CALA/NE). She also coordinated the "Future Development and Service of Global Children’s Librarianship Conference", which took place on August 8-10, 2011 in New York City. The conference was sponsored by CALA and the Library Society of China, and hosted by 4 libraries in NYC.

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About Library Newswire

Library Newswire is the College of Staten Island Library’s biannual newsletter, available both in HTML and PDF formats. Library Newswire informs students, faculty, and staff of library services, resources, and other college-wide activities that may be of interest to the College community. Library Newswire is produced by the CSI Library.

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