Welcome to the Spring 2010 Issue of the Hostos Library Newsletter!

The Big Read at Hostos Library

Hostos Community College Library and the Bronx Council on the Arts are promoting The Big Read, a nation-wide initiative sponsored by the National Endowment of the Arts.

Every year, a noteworthy book is selected and schools around the country distribute free copies of the selected work, inviting students and communities to read and participate in activities celebrating the chosen book. The goal is to encourage literacy and a love of reading.

This year, Sun, Stone and Shadows: 20 Great Mexican Short Stories was chosen as the selection for the Bronx, the perfect choice with which to celebrate the holiday of Cinco de Mayo (see page 4 for a list of resources).

Posters, study guides, and CDs (featuring audio renditions of selected stories) were distributed to Hostos faculty. Among those who incorporated the book into their classes were Profs. Elyse Zucker, Kathleen Kane, Angel Morales, Ian Charles Scott, and Rees Shad.

On May 5, Prof. Morales presented a dramatic reading of “Tell Them Not to Kill Me” by Juan Rulfo in the garden between the B and C buildings while Prof. Scott held a special “Paintathon” in which students were encouraged to use Sun, Stone and Shadows as well as Cinco de Mayo as possible inspirations for their artwork.

In Prof. Rees Shad’s digital photography class, stories such as “My Life as a Wave” by Octavio Paz served as inspiration for at least 11 stunning digital images.

As part of the activities, the Hostos Library has created a web page at the Library’s homepage: www.hostos.cuny.edu/library.

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Interim Chief Librarian Lisa Tappeiner and Prof. Jennifer Tang Present Projects at the 2010 COBI Retreat

Interim Chief Librarian Lisa Tappeiner and Serials/Acquisitions Librarian and Professor Jennifer Tang were among the Hostos faculty presenting their projects at the COBI retreat on Friday, March 19. Held at the Overlook Lodge located at Bear Mountain, New York, the COBI retreat (Committee on Beautiful Ideas) was a chance for participants to develop their projects, attend illuminating workshops on teaching and learning, and deepen their work.

Using new technology to enhance learning was a popular theme. While Professors Tappeiner and Nelson Nunez Rodriguez presented a project entitled Learning Chemistry with Youtube: Believe or Not Believe? Professor Jennifer Tang and Sarah Brennan presented Facing Each Other: Facebook as a Tool for Academic Learning and Networking. Their project explored the potential use of the controversial networking application Facebook as an educational tool.

The three-day retreat featured workshops that explored new ways to think about teaching and learning. Speakers included Janine Graziano-King and Rachel Singer from Kingsborough Community College and Alma Clayton-Pedersenn, VP from Education and Institutional Renewal from the American Association of Colleges and Universities.

The focal point of the retreat was to create visual “Masterpieces” - imaginative poster displays illuminating their respective projects. Using foam board, magic markers, stickers and other craft materials, COBI entrants paraded and explained their works at a “Beauty Pageant” event, where the best-presented projects were given prizes.

—Prof. Jennifer Tang

As the Fall semester ’09 drew to a close, the Hostos Library began a new initiative: offering iPod Touch devices for circulation.

Hostos College library users can borrow an iPod Touch for a 7-day period. As word-of-mouth spread, the program gained momentum and now, just a few months later, most iPod Touches are checked out on any given day.

What makes them so popular? An advanced version of Apple’s phenomenally successful Ipod music player, this small device is a portable media player that offers a Wi-Fi mobile platform. Users can browse the Internet, view photos, watch YouTube videos and download everything from podcasts and movies (from the iTunes store) to eBooks. It offers note-taking capability and access to email with rich HTML graphics.

Users can also open Microsoft Word and Excel attachments and PDF files. Lastly, it provides maps with satellite images, traffic and weather updates.

For information about our iPod Touch lending policies & procedures, please visit the Reference Desk in the library’s Information Learning Commons or check our website, at: www.hostos.cuny.edu/library/hcc/ipod.as

—Prof. Kate Lyons

Student Use of Library Databases Reaches New Highs

Student usage of the databases available at the Hostos Library has reached an all-time high, according to the latest statistics. The Hostos Library currently subscribes to over a hundred databases such as CINAHL with Full-Text, Credo Reference, Opposing Viewpoints, Lexis-Nexis and many allied health databases.

Between Spring semester 2007 and Fall semester 2009, database usage has increased 108% and our totals for spring 2010 are still climbing. In Fall semester 2009, Hostos students, faculty and staff searched our databases an average of 838 times a day.

—Profs. Jennifer Tang and Lisa Tappeiner
New Databases, Books and DVDs at the Hostos Library!

DATABASES

NEW! History Resource Center: U.S. provides integrated access to over 4,000 historical (primary) documents, articles from more than 30 reference titles (i.e., The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives), and over 110 full-text journals covering themes, events, individuals and periods in U.S. history from pre-Colonial times to the present. It includes citations from over 180 history journals from the Institute for Scientific Information's Arts and Humanities Citation Index, as well as the "American Journey Online" series. Its unique "chronology search" situates important cultural and political events in time and provides a world historical context. Like other Gale databases, it offers a search on a person or subject yields results classified by resource type: Reference, Biographies, Periodicals, News, Primary Sources, Maps & Multimedia.

NEW! NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH COLLECTION
For researchers, this new full-text database offers millions of articles from over 1,100 journals on topics related to nursing or allied health.

—Prof. Lisa Tappeiner

NEW! AMERICAN HISTORY IN VIDEO
This database is a recent and valuable addition to our database collection. It is particularly good for ESL students and for American History courses. The focus of the collection is over 4,000 video clips and full-length programs on American history accompanied by searchable, synchronized transcripts. Searches can be done by topic, years, historical eras, historical events, people, or places. Because the periods covered go from the colonial era to the late twentieth century, even research in the popular culture of a period is beautifully supported. Users can also create their own video playlists.

—Prof. Miriam Laskin

BOOKS

The Global Financial Crisis (2010) by Noah Berlatsky

Why Evolution is True (2009) by Jerry Coyne

Harlem on Our Minds: Place, Race, and the Literacies of Urban Youth (2010) by Jabari Mahiri; afterword by Edmund W. Gordon.


DVDs

Man on Wire (2008)
Starring Philippe Petit

Doubt (2009)
Starring Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams

Coco Before Chanel (2010)
Starring Audrey Tautou, Benoît Poelvoorde.

That Hamilton Woman (1941)
The Criterion Collection
Starring Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh


—Compiled by Prof. Jennifer Tang
This month, Hostos Community College celebrates **Cinco de Mayo** (Spanish for "fifth of May"). This holiday is widely celebrated in parts of Mexico and observed in the United States. The occasion commemorates the Mexican army's unlikely victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

Join us as we celebrate Mexican/Latino heritage and pride by checking out the library resources listed below! In addition to these books, be sure to check out *Sun, Stone, and Shadows: 20 Great Mexican Short Stories* by noted Mexican authors such as Octavio Paz, Juan Rulfo, Carlos Fuentes, Martin Luis Guzman and many others. This book, which has been freely distributed throughout Hostos Community College, has been chosen as the official "Big Read" selection for the Bronx!

**STACKS—Circulating Books**


Hostos CC Stacks F1210.G55 2002

Hostos CC Stacks PN1995.9 .H47 2009

Hostos CC Stacks PN4888 .H57 2008

**New Race Politics in America: Minority and Immigrant Politics.** Cambridge; York, University Press.

Hostos CC Stacks F787.S36 2008

**Latina Writers.** Westport, CT, Press.
Hostos CC Stacks PS153.H56 2008

**REFERENCE SOURCES**

**The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Latino Literature.** Westport, CT, Press.
Hostos CC Reference PS153 .H56 2008

**Bruns, Roger.** *Icons of Latino America: Contributions to American Culture*. Westport, CT, Press.
Hostos CC Reference E184 .S75 2008

**Latino America: State-By-State Encyclopedia.** Westport, CT, Press.
Hostos CC Reference E184.S75 2008

Feel free to ask Reference librarians for additional resources!

—Compiled by **Prof. José Diaz**
Hostos Library Celebrates The Big Read  
(continued from front page)

Click on "Big Read Reviews" on the right-hand side and you can read student reviews (compiled from Prof. Kane’s English 111 class) of their favorite stories from the collection.

Any student who’d like to contribute a review of any of the stories is welcome to send us their work. Interested students should email Prof. Miriam Laskin at mlaskin@hostos.cuny.edu by May 17.

Please send attachments as word documents.

In addition to the Hostos library web page, you can also check out the NEA webpage at www.neabigread.org/books/sunstoneandshadows/

——Prof. Jennifer Tang

A Love of Language and Books: The Many Lives of Rosemary Stimola

Hostos Library has a large and rich collection of children’s books thanks to the generosity of people like Rosemary Stimola.

A native of Queens, NY, Ms. Stimola has spent more than 30 years in the worlds of academia and publishing. Today she is co-founder of a highly respected literary agency, the Stimola Literary Studio.

She received a B.A from Queens College where she double majored in Linguistics and Elementary Education. After she graduated with a M.A. in TESOL and a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from NYU, she began her career as a linguist.

In 1975, she came to Hostos Community College as a full-time faculty member in the English Department, where she taught ESL, developed and implemented the Intensive ESL Program and created an elective course in Children's Literature. After she became the first Chairperson of the newly-formed Department of Language and Cognition in 2000, she oversaw the development of a new content-based ESL Program and served as the Coordinator of the Hostos Multicultural Children's Literature Festival, an event that brought children's and young adult books to a diverse student body and to teachers throughout the New York City area.

Six years later, she left academia. “I loved teaching but felt constrained by academia,” she explained. “Bookselling and agenteing allowed me to be my own boss - it also offered me a new approach to working with children's books that tapped and merged the talents and skills I developed in each area.”

Soon she founded the Stimola Literary Studio, a full service literary agency for children’s and young adult fiction and nonfiction books. Among her clients are Michelle Meadows, Hester Bass, Laura Bowers and many others. Ms. Stimola credits her love of reading to being surrounded by books at an early age. “My parents enjoyed reading, but they owned a dry cleaning business that allowed them little time to do so,” she recalled. “They worked 12 hour days.” Despite this hectic schedule, they found time to read to her and her brother, including bedtime stories.

“My favorite book growing up was a treasury of nursery rhymes and stories by writers such as Twain, Cervantes and Tolstoy. It was a beautifully illustrated book called ‘My Book House’,” she recalled.

Looking back on the Hostos of 1975 that she once knew, she says the college today has grown “into a college of reputation and distinction, a pillar of the South Bronx. I was so proud to be a part of that process.”

While many publishers and agents are anxious about the challenges posed by eBooks, Ms. Stimola is confident there’ll always be a need for stories.

“There’ll always be publishing for children. How the formats and delivery of story will change over these next years is certainly a question. But no matter the page or the i-pad, children's books, both classic and the classics-to-be, will always be with us.”

——Prof. Jennifer Tang
The COPYRIGHT @ CUNY website was recently unveiled and is now available to help educate the entire CUNY community about the copyright issues that affect teaching, learning and research.

Taking into account technological developments like social networking, electronic reserves, and course management systems (BlackBoard), the site serves as an update to the 2003 Copyright Guidelines for CUNY Libraries. Produced by Library faculty in consultation with the CUNY Office of the General Counsel, a more interactive resource was sought.

The site will provide basic copyright information, tutorials, tools, and FAQ’s that address all types of issues found in higher education. It also presents information relevant for students, faculty and staff, and librarians. In each of these categories, common scenarios are presented with useful responses.

The web site address is www.cuny.edu/libraries/services/copyright.html. You can also go to the CUNY webpage. Click on “Libraries”, “Library Services”, and then “COPYRIGHT @ CUNY”.

Adapted from the COPYRIGHT @ CUNY website.

— Prof. Rhonda L. Johnson, Head of Access Services: rhjohnson@hostos.cuny.edu.
Hostos Archives: New Workshop and Collection Highlights

The Hostos Library is proud to introduce a new workshop, Finding Visual and Primary Sources, taught by Prof. William Casari and Matthew Flaherty from the Hostos Archives Unit.

Introduced in April, the class highlights underutilized and visual primary source databases that students can access.

“The workshop gave students the opportunity to learn about the importance of primary sources in original research while reinforcing the information literacy skills necessary to find, evaluate and use sources of all types and formats,” said Prof. Flaherty.

Databases that were demonstrated included American History In Video, Art Museum Image Gallery, American History Online and Milestone Documents in the American History database. All of these electronic resources are rich in visual and primary source materials that many students had not seen before.

Both professors felt that looking at documents and reproductions of fine art from American painters like Edward Hopper also gave students a break from “text only” documents and increased an awareness of other types of databases students may not have been aware of.

The workshop also included an overview and definitions of primary and secondary sources and their use in academic research. The workshop will be taught again during May and may be of special interest to those studying American History or Art.

NEW—Updated Hostos Archives Page!

Also, check out the recently updated “Collection Highlights” on the Hostos Archives web page! The new “Collection Highlights” page contains information on our latest acquisitions and collections; abstracts for several manuscript and photograph collections; and finding aids (detailed guides) to some of Hostos’ most valuable archival collections. It also offers information on the Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art:

http://www.hostos.cuny.edu/library/hcc/archivehighlights.asp

Hostos Library Faculty Accomplishments

Presentations

Profs. Kate Lyons and Lisa Tappeiner presented “Ubiquitous Research: Integrating Library Resources into Online Courses” at the Ubiquitous Learning Conference, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, Dec. 5-6, 2009.

Grants
Profs. William Casari and Elyse Zucker, English Department, have been selected to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities-sponsored Landmarks of American History and Culture We The People Summer Institute workshop called “Along The Shore, Changing and Preserving the Landmarks of Brooklyn’s Industrial Waterfront.” Participants will study the changes affecting Brooklyn’s waterfront, declared one of America’s most endangered historic places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2007.

Prof. Jennifer Tang won a 2010 PSC-CUNY Research Grant for her memoir-in-progress.

Publications


Degrees Awarded
Prof. Rhonda L. Johnson is completing an online certificate in Copyright Management and Leadership offered by the Center for Intellectual Property located at the University of Maryland University College in Adelphi, MD. The certificate program concludes on May 31.

On May 27, Ms. Emma Kent-Traore, Evening and Weekend Supervisor, will graduate from Queens College with a Masters in Information and Library Science degree.

Compiled by
Prof. Jennifer Tang