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## Greetings From the Chief Librarian's Office



An organization's most important asset is its employees, and the same goes for the York College Library. The high quality of York College Library services and resources is a direct result of the hard work of its personnel. While it has been challenging to maintain quality service in an era of budget cuts and shrinking resources, library faculty remain highly motivated in instructing students in the craft of information seeking and retrieval. Since I became the Chief Librarian in Fall 2011, major changes have taken place. First and foremost, budget cuts have impacted each and every department in the college including the library. The effects of budget reductions over the past year have impacted the library — in January 2012, the library had to

drastically reduce its operating hours, and the faculty position that was vacated in December 2011 due to retirement was not filled. Nevertheless, in spite of the heavy burden placed on the library by the budget crisis, the library team remains committed to delivering more and better service to faculty, students, and the broader York College community. On a positive note, the IT Help Desk is now stationed in the library to assist customers who encounter problems with emails, computers, and printing accounts. In Fall 2011, the library faculty started preparing for 2006-2011 Self-Study Report, and I am pleased to announce that the team accomplished its key goal in April 2012. Needless to say, all these accomplishments are a direct result of the hard work and dedication of library faculty and staff. Most importantly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the library personnel for their support and for assisting me to lead the library during a very difficult fiscal year. It has been and continues to be my pleasure to work with such a dynamic team.

To the Administration, IT Help Desk, Public Safety, and Buildings and Grounds, thank you for your support.

To the York College students, have a safe summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back in Fall 2012. Congratulations and good luck to the students who achieved their dreams on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

Prof. Njoki Kinyatti

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# Library Departmental Liaisons

## As of June 2012

Each academic department on campus has a liaison in the library. Consult your liaison to suggest the library purchase a book, journal, or database—or for help using the library’s resources and services.

**Accounting & Finance**

D. Su

**Behavioral Sciences**

J. Drobnicki, P. Lucas

**Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Physical Sciences**

D. Cleary

**Business & Economics, Aviation**

D. Su

**English, Journalism**

R. Machalow, C. Miller

**Foreign Languages, ESL, & Humanities**

S. Sheidlower, S. Urban

**Health Education, Physical Education, & Gerontological Studies & Services**

D. Cleary, R. Machalow

**Health Professions**

D. Cleary, J. Drobnicki

**History & Philosophy**

J. Drobnicki, S. Urban, P. Lucas

**Mathematics & Computer Science**

A. Dasgupta

**Occupational Therapy**

D. Cleary

**Performing & Fine Arts**

S. Sheidlower, D. Su

**Queens High School for the Sciences**

C. Miller

**Social Sciences**

C. Miller, N. Kinyatti, K. Krepp.

**Teacher Education:**

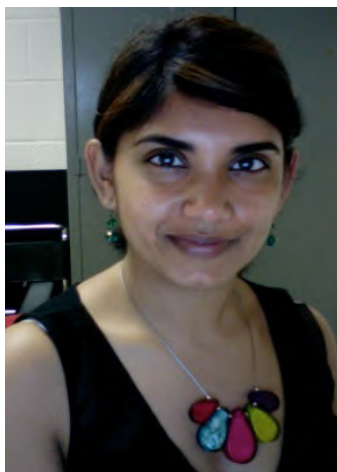
A. Dasgupta, N. Kinyatti

**York Early College Academy**

C. Miller, S. Urban

*Please visit the library’s website for liaisons’ contact information and for any changes.*

## York College Librarian Wins Grant



Prof. Anamika Dasgupta was honored to receive the 2012 Travel Grant awarded by the Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP). The grant provided her a complimentary registration to the 34th SSP Annual Meeting in Arlington, Virginia; a one-year complimentary SSP membership; and reimbursement of \$1000 for travel and lodging expenses.

The theme of this year’s SSP Conference was “*Social, Mobile, Agile, Global: Are You Ready?*” Prof. Dasgupta conducts her research on discourse in virtual communities, particularly on online scholarly communication. As such, she was thrilled to receive this grant that allowed her to attend the conference and

network with researchers and industry practitioners in this field.

## The Kenneth Gaither Adams Collection: A Special Donation



In December 2011, the library received a music collection donated by Mr. Mark Adams, Lecturer of Music and son of the late Professor Kenneth Adams who passed away in 2010. A beloved music educator, Professor Adams served as Chairman of the Department of Performing and Fine Arts for many years. Educated and trained at Howard University and Manhattan School of Music, Professor Adams was regarded as a great teacher as well as a versatile performing artist who showed his mastery in classical, jazz, and Broadway music.

The collection, seventy-six titles in total, has two categories. The music score collection, 69 titles, consists of famous operas and masterpieces of symphonic works. The book collection, 7 volumes, contains biographies of well-known musicians, and books on music appreciation, and music history. While all the items are valuable, the music score collection fills a unique position in our library's total collection in several ways: (1) it significantly enhances our music score collection; (2) music major students, especially those in MUS422 Conducting, may find it useful and convenient; (3) music instructors may utilize it for their teaching and scholarly research; and (4) it may help students from Queens High School for the Sciences at York College in their music studies. Besides its academic value, the donation certainly helps in collection development of the library given the current financial climate.

To recognize the Adams family's generosity and to honor Professor Adams, the library decided to name the collection "The Kenneth Gaither Adams Collection." Each item carries a special bookplate in the front designating it as part of the collection. In the CUNY+ online catalog there is a special note for each title in the bibliographic record indicating that it is part of The Kenneth Gaither Adams Collection. (A keyword search on "Kenneth Gaither Adams Collection" will retrieve all the titles in the collection.)

In addition to our appreciation to Mr. Mark Adams, we'd like to thank the following people for their contribution to this project:

- Professor Eric Metcalf of Performing and Fine Arts for initiating the contact with the library
- Professor John Drobnicki, Acting Head of Cataloging of York Library, for cataloging the collection
- Mr. Joseph LoPinto, Graphic Designer - Institutional Advancement, for designing the bookplate
- Ms. Rose Dunne of the York Library's Cataloging Unit for putting the bookplates in the books and preparing the books for the shelves.

*Prof. Di Su*

*Head of Reference Services / Subject Liaison to Music Department*

## Professor Sheidlower's New Book

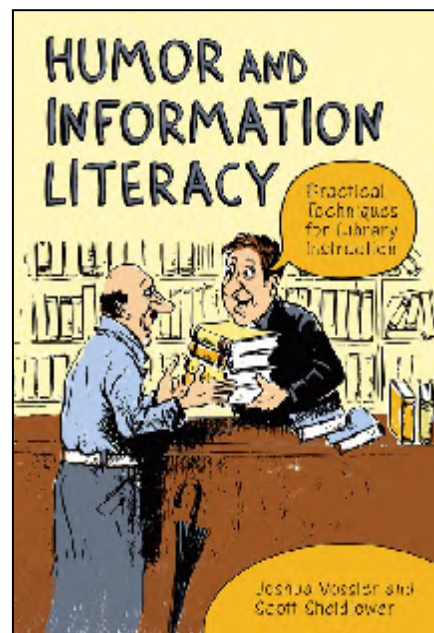
[These remarks were delivered in a slightly edited format at the Provost's reception for faculty authors, held on Dec. 13, 2011.]

If Prof. Sheidlower wanted to borrow from Ken Bain, he might have titled this book *What the Best College Librarians Do*, for essentially Scott's book is about being a good teacher. As you may or may not know, Library Faculty teach Information Literacy sessions for students, often at the request of classroom faculty members – Information Literacy teaches students how to find, use, interpret, and evaluate information, whether in print or online. And unlike the classroom faculty, librarians usually only have one shot – about an hour – to reach the students.

Students are not always enthusiastic about their “Library class” – sometimes they have preconceived negative stereotypes about both libraries and librarians. Since it's almost always a one-shot class, the instruction librarian does *not* have the same trust or rapport that the classroom faculty member has built up with his or her students over the course of weeks or months. And the information itself – “How to use the online catalog!” “How to search an EBSCO database!!” – is not always the most interesting, exciting, or memorable.

Scott adamantly believes that librarians who teach Information Literacy classes are performers, and that integrating humor into the subject matter makes the session more enjoyable for students, helps to build rapport, and also encourages students to visit the library in the future to seek out that librarian for assistance.

Scott Sheidlower has been interested in the connection between humor and teaching for several years, and was part of a panel at the prestigious ACRL National Conference in 2007 with the title, “Edutainment with a Bun: Librarian as Stand-up Comic.” Wanting to expand his research, he met Joshua Vossler, at that time an academic librarian in Texas, who was a like-minded librarian/comedian, and they decided to work together on what became this book. As the authors point out, their literature review only turned up 15 articles published about Information Literacy and humor between 1998 and 2008, so they are really on the forefront of this subject. Aside from the literature reviews they conducted, which also included “humor and education” and “humor and psychology,” the authors provide a helpful chapter filled with suggestions, such as avoiding the use of either stories or props. (I guess that's why Carrot Top wouldn't



make a good librarian...)

They also sent out questionnaires to librarians around the country through listservs about using humor in teaching Information Literacy, and the second half of the book contains 50 techniques and/or strategies suggested by professional librarians, all of whom are credited by name in the book.

Humor, of course, is very subjective – what's funny to a middle-aged librarian is not always funny to a 20-year-old student, a 30-year-old English professor, or to the Library faculty colleague who is doing your teaching observation. But the *outcome* is what's important.

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If throwing a small amount of silliness into one's teaching helps to liven up what would otherwise be a dry lesson about how to use the Library – and if that helps to draw those students back to visit the Library in the future – then the technique is successful. And since many students come to the Library and ask for Scott by name, he must be doing *something* right.

Prof. John Drobnicki

*Acting Head of Technical Services*

## School Media Corner

The Library welcomes the new principal of the Queens High School for the Sciences at York College (QHSS), Dr. David Marmor, who was previously an Assistant Principal at Francis Lewis High School in Bayside. Dr. Marmor readily agreed to allow QHSS students to participate in York librarian Prof. Anamika Dasgupta's book drive for the African Library Project (<http://www.africanlibraryproject.org>). Not only did QHSS students donate hundreds of new and gently-used books to be shipped to Malawi, they also tucked personal notes into some of the books describing what they liked (or loved) about them — and what wonderful books they were! The charitable literature lovers of QHSS donated Caldecott, Newbery, Coretta Scott King and Printz award-winning books along with children's and adult classics, YA favorites and best-sellers.

In addition to providing information literacy sessions for QHSS classes and individual assistance to several QHSS students, a highlight of my year was working with teacher Ms. Joanne Graziani and her Global Studies students. In the fall and spring, classes used the library's databases to research ancient civilizations and the middle ages, respectively; students



wrote reports, cited sources and created artifacts relating to the two periods. A gallery walk was created in the library, where students used rubrics to peer-evaluate projects; students then created a library exhibit that included their reports and artifacts [See photo above].

In May students from QHSS participated in York's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Math and Science Expo. Librarians Anamika Dasgupta, Christina Miller, and Robert Machalow gave library tours to five groups of students participating in the Expo. This past year, I provided information literacy sessions for York's College Now students and York Early Academy students taking Cultural Diversity and Speech courses at York College.

Another exciting development at QHSS this year was the addition of a new study hall, which I supervised for several hours each week. Manning the study hall provided a great opportunity to meet students, answer library-related questions, and collaborate with teachers. After another productive year of affiliation with QHSS, I look forward to continuing my work with Dr. Marmor and teachers to provide library services and integrate standards-based skills across the 9-12 curriculum.

Ms. Christina Miller

*School Media Specialist*

## In Memoriam: Marta G. Franco



The York College Library is deeply saddened by the death of our beloved former colleague Marta Franco, who was a Lecturer and Head of Serials from 1970-1997.

Marta Garcia Franco was born on July 29, 1926 in Matanzas, Cuba, about 60 miles east of Havana. After receiving the degree of Doctora en Filosofia y Letras from the University of Havana, she received a B.A. in Literature from Havana's Villanova University (1950) before returning to the University of Havana to study Library Science. Marta's early professional work was as both a teacher and a librarian – she taught English at the Normal School for Teachers (Havana), and Spanish for the Poughkeepsie (New York) Board of Education, as well as the Professional Children's School in New York City. Prior to coming to York, Marta worked as a librarian at Villanova University (Havana), the Center for Inter-American Relations (New York), and Fashion Institute of Technology (New York). As her husband Avenol's career took him to different cities, Marta moved to different schools.

After being hired as a Lecturer at York College, she was required to go back to school for an ALA-accredited MLS, so she attended Queens College (MLS, 1972). Mrs. Franco was part of a group of serials librarians that compiled the *Queens County Union List of Serials*, as well as the *CUNY Union List of Serials*, both of which were invaluable resources for students and faculty (and Interlibrary Loan librarians), especially in the days before online catalogs. For many year she was the York Library's representative to the Executive Council of LACUNY, the Library Association of the City University of New York. Marta was instrumental in York developing an outstanding periodicals collection, both in print and on microfilm.



Congratulations to the Library's  
graduating College Assistants:

Alyssa Bryan, BA Psychology

Ria Hutson, BA Journalism

Samantha Rossi – BA Journalism –

and CUNY Office Assistant:

Travis Hilton – M.P.A. John Jay

Best of luck in the future!

Marta was known for her bubbly personality and dedication to York students, and was quick to start dancing in the serials work room, always brightening the day of those around her.

After retiring, Marta suffered a series of strokes that left her in a persistent vegetative state for more than a decade. She died at age 84 on July 24, 2011, a few days shy of her 85th birthday.

Prof. John Drobnicki

*Acting Head of Technical Services*

## Retirement Congratulations to Professor Hope Young

After 25 years of a productive and well-spent career at York College Library, Professor Hope Young retired on January 1, 2012, and her title was changed to Professor Emerita. Professor Young was a committed and passionate teacher, and generations of students, particularly those majoring in Occupational Therapy and Social Work, benefited from her devoted teaching and mentoring. One of Professor Young's distinguishing characteristics was her enthusiasm for teaching students how to access and effectively search online databases and recognize important journals in their fields of study.

We are grateful for Hope's long and much-appreciated service to the York College Library. She is irreplaceable and will be sorely missed. We know Hope will continue to impact the lives of those she meets and we wish her continued good health and happy days.

Congratulations on your retirement Professor Young!

Prof. Njoki Kinyatti

*Chief Librarian*



### For the students: Are you workplace ready?

I helped organize a morning program, "Workplace Readiness?," sponsored by CUNY's Library Information Literacy Advisory Committee (LILAC) and Gale (Cengage Learning). On Friday, April 27, 2012, twenty-five librarians (from CUNY and outside) and I met five different employers from various industries, both for-profit and not-for-profit, at John Jay College of Criminal Justice to discuss in a panel format what students should be able to do by the time they graduate from college. Consensus was that two most critical necessities were to use technology intelligently and to think critically.

York can help you acquire both skills. Dr. Wenying Huang-Stolte is an Instructional Technologist from York's Academic Computing/Ed Tech Department. Dr. Huang-Stolte provides small-group computer skills classes at the start of each semester and is available through each term to provide assistance; she can be reached at 718-262-2826 or by email at [wyh@york.cuny.edu](mailto:wyh@york.cuny.edu). York Library's information literacy sessions, for classes such as ENG125 and WRIT300, incorporate critical thinking skills; librarians also work one-on-one with students to provide help and advice with specific course assignments and research projects.

Want to get a job when you graduate? Attend a computer help session, take an information literacy course, or speak to a librarian about how to "think about thinking" - its something you need to know.

Prof. Scott Sheidlower

*Head of Information Literacy*



## York College Library's IT upgrade

York College Library continues to make technology improvements every semester. During the 2011 summer session, the library adopted a new print system, Cardinal Print, a web-based system that allows students to print from a centralized campus source. The library created a dedicated PC where students can create print/copy accounts. A heavy-duty color printer was installed next to the library's reference desk. Students can send print jobs not only from the library's workstations but also from their laptops; hence, students don't need to wait for a workstation to send their print jobs to the print release station.

A new printing station was established near the Circulation Desk (see below) that included a dedicated PC where library guests can create guest-print / copy accounts and utilize the library's Cardinal Print System; two kiosk pay stations were also added so that library guests and students can add money to print and photocopy accounts.



Six brand new PCs have been added to the library Guest-Station area. Two copy machines have been configured so that students now can scan documents and release color print jobs.

During the 2012 spring session, the library's 36 Macs were upgraded to enable students to use both Windows and Mac OS systems without interruption. When students log in to iMacs the workstation (called VMWARE) automatically provides access to both Windows and Mac operating systems and the Cardinal Print System.

Many of the library's faculty and staff noticed that students were more comfortable using Windows operating systems rather than MACs, so the library has added 14 new Windows PCs, bringing the total number of Windows PCs to 120. These are located throughout the library.

At present, IT is testing a third-party software program that would allow students to reserve individual computers; according to Mr. Greg Vega, the Director of IT Service Delivery, the system could theoretically be used to reserve Group Study Rooms as well.

Mohammed J. Sarwar

*Systems Administrator*



## Recent Library Faculty Scholarship & Creative Works

- Cleary, D. E. (2011, September). Review of the *Science in image, sound, and motion* website. *Choice*, 48, 133-134.
- Cleary, D. E. (2011, December). Review of the *NASA multimedia page* website. *Choice*, 49, 702-703.
- Dasgupta, A. (2011). Does pedagogy matter to librarians? *DisCover*, 3, 87-91.
- Dasgupta, A. (2012). Received Society for Scholarly Publishing Travel Grant: \$1000 + SSP Annual Meeting Registration.
- Drobnicki, J. A. (2011, October). Al Sears' saxophone at York Library. *Academic Affairs Update*, 5, 12.
- Drobnicki, J. A. (2011, November). Hezekiah and Charity Mills of Westport, Connecticut. *Connecticut Ancestry*, 54, 94.
- Drobnicki, J. A. (2011, September). Review of *Fifty key thinkers on the Holocaust and Genocide*, by Paul R. Bartrop and Steven L. Jacobs. *Choice*, 49, 80-81.
- Drobnicki, J. A. (2011, December). Review of the *Nuremberg trials project* website. *Choice*, 49, 658.
- Kinyatti, N. (2011). Africa and school crime and violence. In L. Finley (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of School Crime and Violence* (Vol. 1, pp. 7-11). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.
- Kinyatti, N. (2011). Gender and school crime and violence, college. In L. Finley (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of School Crime and Violence* (Vol.1, pp. 199-203). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.
- Kinyatti, N. (2011). Violent non-sexual crimes, college. In L. Finley (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of School Crime and Violence* (Vol. 2, pp. 510-514). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.
- Miller, C. (June, 2012). Review of *The summer of no regrets*, by Katherine Bond. *Voice of Youth Advocates*, 35, 152.
- Miller, C. (April, 2012). Review of *For darkness shows the stars*, by D. Peterfreund. *Voice of Youth Advocates*, 34, 79.
- Miller, C. (February, 2012). Review of *Sudden flash youth: 65 short-short stories*, by C. Perkins-Hazuka, T. Hazuka, & M. Budman (Eds.). *Voice of Youth Advocates*, 34, 598.
- Miller, C. (December, 2011). Review of *Dressing a nation: The history of U.S. fashion*. *Voice of Youth Advocates*, 34, 526.
- Miller, C. (Week of November 17, 2011). Online Review of *How to break a dragon's heart*, by C.Cowell. *Voice of Youth Advocates*.
- Miller, C., Gorman, H. (October, 2011). Review of *Sketchy behavior* by E. Magnum. *Voice of Youth Advocates*, 34, 388.
- Miller, C. (August, 2011). Review of *Street smarts: Beyond the diploma* by J. Rendel. *Voice of Youth Advocates*, 34, 303.

...continued on page 10

## Recent Library Faculty Scholarship & Creative Works

Miller, C., Gorman M. (August, 2011). Review of *My favorite band does not exist* by R. T. Jeschonek. *Voice of Youth Advocates*, 34, 290.

Sheidlower, S. (2011). Allen, Dede. In P. C. DiMare (Ed.), *Movies in American history: An encyclopedia* (Vol. 2, pp. 549-551). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

Sheidlower, S. (2011). Berkeley, Busby. In P. C. DiMare (Ed.), *Movies in American history: An encyclopedia* (Vol. 2, pp. 568-570). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

Sheidlower, S. One book review in *American Reference Books Annual* (ARBA).

Sheidlower, S. (2011). Solomon, T. J. In L. L. Finley (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of School Crime and Violence* (Vol. 2, pp. 446-448). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

Sheidlower, S. (2011, September 23). "What's So Funny About Peace, Love and Information Literacy," presentation at the Division of Academic and Special Libraries of the Suffolk County Library Association.

Vossler, J. & Sheidlower, S. (2011). *Humor and Information Literacy: Practical Techniques for Library Instruction*. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited.

Urban, S. G. (2011). Courts of Indian Offenses (Code of Federal Regulations Courts). In P. C. Mancall (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Native American History* (Vol. 1, pp.192-193). New York, NY: Facts On File.

Urban, S. G. (2011). Meriam Report (*The Problem of Indian Administration* [1928]). In P. C. Mancall (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Native American History* (Vol. 2, pp. 476-477). New York, NY: Facts On File.

Urban, S. G. (2011). Woodham, Luke. In L. Finley (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of School Crime and Violence* (Vol. 2, pp. 529-533). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

*Please* Help Keep the Library:

**Conducive To Studying**

- Talk in a quiet voice so you don't disturb those around you.
- Put your cell phone on vibrate or silent mode.
- Step outside to answer or make a call.

**Clean & Inviting**

- Do not "reserve" computers or group study rooms with your personal belongings.
- Eat outside of the Library.
- Only bring in water that is in a spill-proof container. No other drinks are permitted.

**Library rules are enforced at the request of York students.**  
Students, faculty, and staff thank you for your consideration!