Medgar Evers College/CUNY

NURU

Charles Evans Inniss Memorial Library Newsletter

Volume IV, No. 2 Fall 2004

Be a little careful about your library. Do you foresee what you will do with it? Very little to be sure. But the real question is, What it will do with you? You will come here and get books that will open your eyes, and your ears, and your curiosity, and turn you inside out or outside in.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803—1882)

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SAFETY TIP

Please be aware of your surroundings as you use the Library. Report any suspicious or inappropriate behavior to the nearest librarian or security personnel.

Our Newsletter's name, **"NURU"** is a Swahili (the most widely spoken language in Africa) word which means "light ".

From the Desk of Professor Consuella Askew, Chief Librarian

Greetings MEC students, faculty and staff!

I am delighted to have joined the Charles Evans Inniss Memorial Library and Medgar Evers College family this fall. This semester has been one of transition and change for the library faculty and staff allowing us to explore new opportunities for our users and capitalize on existing ones. So far this semester, our efforts have resulted in the following:

- The library has gone wireless! More details will follow in this issue of the newsletter.
- The new library web site **http://www.mec.cuny.edu/library** launched in late November making more of our resources accessible online.
- An electronic suggestion box has been established, so that at your leisure, you can e-mail us your suggestions and feedback regarding library services at **<ceiml@mec.cuny.edu>**.
- Electronic reference service is now being provided via e-mail. Send your reference questions to **askref@mec.cuny.edu** and you can expect a response within 48 hours.

T o ensure that we are meeting your expectations, during the next semester the library will be participating in a national survey called **LibQUAL+™** to gather information about your perceptions of our library service quality. You will receive more information about this survey over the next several months.

In alignment with the mission of the college, the library faculty and staff are committed to developing, maintaining, and delivering, high quality, professional, information services to support the college's curriculum. We want your library experience to be both a positive and productive one as you pursue your scholarly and personal information endeavors. We look forward to building upon our past achievements and creating new ones as we contribute to student success, by providing ubiquitous and transparent access to a broad and growing collection of print and electronic resources.

Reflections of Prof. Yvonne Bennett's Last Years

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Written By Prof. Clover Steele

The song, *"If I Could Help Somebody",* seemingly speaks to Prof. Bennett's purpose in life. She was determined to help.

As I reflect upon her last few years at Medgar Evers College, it was evident that she was well accomplished as a Professor, a Librarian, and a Scholar. She worked very hard and she was very ambitious and demanded the same from colleagues and students. Of course, many of us did not quite understand why she did so much, but we can now say that it was worth it all.

Professor Bennett was a familiar sight riding around campus in her chair attending meetings, hosting programs, and conducting numerous Information Literacy lectures per week. When she was called upon to organize events and/ or share her ideas regarding library matters she was always ready and able.

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As a faculty member and a librarian in the Charles Evans Inniss Memorial Library, she was dedicated to serving patrons. "Yvonne" as she was sometimes called, was knowledgeable, well learned and was respected for her ability to share knowledge with users on all levels.

Prof. Bennett did not let sickness or disappointments keep her from dreaming big, or getting the job done. All she wanted to do was to *"Help somebody, who passed her way"* and that she did. For those of us who truly knew Prof. Bennett, our memories of her are of a woman who was lively, intelligent, kind, compassionate, strong, who enjoyed life, was dramatic, hard-working, focused, frank, and full of laughter. She will be missed, but her legacy here at MEC and in the Charles Evans Inniss Memorial Library will be remembered and appreciated.

We the Faculty and Staff of The Charles Evans Inniss Memorial Library will miss her dedicated work, and we will cherish her legacy!

Departmental Unit News — "What's happening in the Library"

Circulation and Reserves

The Circulation and Reserves Units of the Charles Evans Inniss Memorial Library has had a very busy fall semester. During October, the Circulation Unit had over 4,800 transactions. In addition, over 1,600 reserve materials were circulated. New signage for the book stacks has been posted to assist users with finding books on the shelves. The Circulation Unit is in the process of revising the LC classification signs for the book stack ends and revising the Circulation Policy Manual.

The Reserves Collection includes textbooks and other readings that are assigned by faculty. With the fall semester coming to an end, faculty members are encouraged to re-evaluate their reserve materials by December 17, 2004 in preparation for the spring term. Faculty members who assign readings are encouraged to use E-reserves, which gives our students online access to the materials they are required to read. Interested faculty should contact Ms. Burgett Belgrave at ext. 4816 by January 14, 2005 to place their materials on e-reserve.

Reference

The Reference Librarians are currently designing research guides for library users, to assist with finding and obtaining information from various available sources — particularly electronic sources.

User guides providing step-by-step instructions have been developed for the following databases:

MathSciNet — www.ams.org/mathscinet, (A multilingual database of mathematical literature review culled from 1,799 scientific journals and ever increasing internet links. Database spans from 1940 to the present);

ScienceDirect — www.sciencedirect.com, (Access to journals, abstracts, references and full-text articles in biochemistry, genetics, medicine, dentistry, neuroscience and nursing);

Britannica Online — www.search.eb.com, (Access to over 123,000 articles);

CQ Researcher — www.cqpress.com/library, (Searches the complete CQ Research archives from 1991 to the present);

JSTOR— http://libraries.cuny.edu, (An archive of back issues of scholarly journals spanning thirty one disciplines of the social behavioral sciences).

Reference Librarians are available to assist students, faculty, and other interested library patrons in using the above databases. Step-by-step guides are available online, or at the Reference Desk. For information about additional electronic resources accessible to you at home, please contact a Reference Librarian at ext. 4802.

Inter-Library Loan (ILL)

The InterLibrary Loan (ILL) area awaits your request(s). This library unit is a resource currently available to faculty and staff. ILL services enable faculty and staff obtain books, articles, dissertations, media materials and other items when our Library doesn't physically own a given item.

The idea behind interlibrary loan is that the lending is done from institution to institution, making hard to get items a little easier to obtain. Each patron makes their requests through CUNY+ the electronic online catalog via a special E-mail program. It can take between 3-16 days to obtain an item, usually it takes about 8 days.

For more information about requesting an item via ILL contact Mr. Carlton Lula at ext. 4884.

Information Literacy Instruction (ILI)

The ILI program provides library users with instruction and guidance with identifying, interpreting, and analyzing information.

This unit is responsible for providing customized instruction for individual classes and delivering content for the LIB 100 course. Utilizing emerging information

online catalog, etc.) Information Literacy instruction emphasizes the hands-on application of concepts taught.

Faculty, to schedule a customized ILI session for your class, contact Prof. Clover Steele at ext. 4875.

Students, the LIB 100 course offerings for next Spring 2005 are now available. Please Check the course schedule and **register now!**

Automation/Systems

Wireless is here! Funded by the Student Technology Fee, the CEIM Library has gone wireless. All students and faculty at MEC are welcome to use this service. You can use your own wireless ready device to browse the internet anywhere in the library.

The new CEIM library web site is now available at **http://www.mec.cuny.edu/library**. Our web site, will provide a gateway to library resources and information for our users. Since the web is dynamic our site will always be a work in progress, as we continue to add new content to meet your informational needs.

Cataloging and Processing

The Cataloging and Processing Unit of the library provides access to library materials - print and electronic - with uniform cataloging, classification, and processing (labeling, stamping, targeting) procedures. This unit also keeps up-to-date online information on the library collections and holdings by making daily corrections and enhancements to the bibliographic records in the library database. So far, during the fall 2004 semester, the unit has rush processed over 200 reserve items and cataloged 480 volumes. In addition, 340 obsolete titles have been withdrawn from the system.

Special Collections/Archives

Special Collections/Archives recently assumed responsibility for the vertical files collection (VF). It will:

- lead researchers to additional reference materials;
- relate to the history and struggles of the Central Brooklyn community;
- document the relationship between MEC and the Central Brooklyn Community;
- serve as a ready-reference of facts, statistics and issues related to Central Brooklyn;
- Supplement the special collection materials of African American Diaspora.

Collection Development

With funds generously provided by President Jackson and the support of the Department Chairs and School Deans, the library ordered and received 190 + volumes for the library reserve collection for fall 2004.

All faculty members are invited and encouraged to participate in the library materials selection process for their discipline. Faculty subject expertise will greatly assist us with building a library collection that supports the college curriculum and programs. Please contact your liaison librarian or departmental Library Resource Committee representative with your suggestions and recommendations, as soon as possible. We need your input before the end of the fall semester.

Gift Books

The library gratefully acknowledges books and AV items received during fall 2004 semester from the following donors:

Dr. Georgia McDuffie, Chair of Nursing Department and Nursing faculty; The Honorable Major R. Owens; The Computer Information Systems and Technology Association of Medgar Evers College; Dr. Lorraine Kuziw; Dr. Henry Olsen; Dr. Jennifer Sparrow; Mr. Richard Hickerson; Dr. Kathleen Barker; Ms. Chinwe Ifeoma; Professor Consuella Askew and many other concerned donors.

The Library accepts gifts of books, manuscripts, and more than three years' current periodical subscriptions (no back file journals) and other materials and money for the purchase of materials that enhance the existing library collections and support college curriculum and programs. The library welcomes current, rare, and unique items in good physical condition which has important value relating to the College and community.

Faculty Publications

Heath, M. Fred, Kyrillidou, Martha and Askew, A. Consuella, Eds. Libraries Act on Their LibQUAL +™ Findings: From Data to Action. Binghamton, New York: The Haworth Information Press, 2004.

Thompson, Carlyle Van. The tragic Black buck: racial masquerading in the American literary imagination. New York: Peter Lang, 2004. (Spec/PS/374/N4/T48/2004)

We would appreciate it very much the faculty member would notify the library for their publications (books only). As you may know, the library collects faculty publications and they are housed in the Special Collection of the Library.

Library Newsletter

Three issues of the Library newsletter presenting news of our events, services, and staff will be published each academic year. Send your comments and suggestions to the editors.

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General Library Hours:

Monday-Thursday	8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Exceptions:

- 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. on the last three Fridays of the semester.
- Media Services is closed on Sundays.

Closed for the Holidays.

Friday, Dec. 24, 2004 — Sunday, Jan. 2, 2005

Welcome New Employees

In fall 2004, Professor Consuella Askew was appointed Chief Librarian of The Charles E. Inniss Memorial Library. She comes to Medgar Evers College from the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Library (HBCU) Alliance. Most recently, Ms. Askew served as the project coordinator for the HBCU Library Alliance's planning grant entitled, "Strengthening Libraries at HBCU's" funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. As the Project Coordinator. She was responsible for the coordination and execution of the activities defined by the $163,000 grant. For the past three years, she was responsible for the coordinating communications and training activities for ARL's LibQUAL+™ project. LibQUAL+™ is a suite of services that libraries use to solicit, track, understand, and act upon users' opinions of service quality.

Professor Askew received her B.A. in English from Spelman College, her M.L.S., from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is currently working on a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration at Florida International University, Miami, FL.

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Address Correction Requested

Staff News

Congratulations to Prof. Ching Chang for her promotion to Full Professor Status.

Prof. Ching Chang received a PSC/CUNY Research award to conduct a comprehensive survey of the Chinese collections held by the foremost East Asian libraries in California: The East Asian Library of University of California at Berkeley, the East Asia Library and Hoover Archives Holdings on China of Stanford University; and the Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Prof. Chang was elected as the treasurer of the Chinese American Librarians Association an affiliate of the American Library Association/NE Chapter, 2004/05.

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