The Brooklyn College Library created an online catalogue and audio tour of its world-class art collection. The online catalogue and online component of the audio tour can be viewed and heard at here. Professors Miriam Deutch and Jill Cirasella oversaw the project, which combined the talents and contributions of many members of the Brooklyn College Library faculty and staff. (For the full list of credits, visit the online catalogue.)

The Brooklyn College Library Art Collection includes paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography, and prints, and features works by Elizabeth Murray, William Kentridge, Chakaia Booker, Shahzia Sikander, Sarah Sze, John Walker, Edward Ruscha, and Xu Bing. Several of these artists live and work in Brooklyn’s dynamic art community, and they are all internationally recognized, with works in major museums around the world. The collection also contains drawings and prints from prominent modern artists, including Alberto Giacometti, Kathe Kollwitz, Alexander Calder, Georges Braque, Robert Motherwell, and Chaim Gross.

Most of the collection was acquired just before the 2002 opening of the newly renovated and expanded Library. Many of the purchases were funded by New York City’s “Percent for Art” law, which ensures that public spaces are graced with art. Numerous other works were acquired through gifts, and some works are on loan. One very special work, Olindo Mario Ricci’s Famous Libraries of the World mural, was funded in 1936 by the Federal Arts Project.

The online catalogue is powered by homegrown software that dynamically generates the catalogue from easy-to-update item records. In addition to reproductions of the art works, the catalogue includes explanatory text, links to museum and gallery exhibitions, suggested readings and, for some works, audio versions of the explanations.

As part of the publicity campaign for the catalogue and audio tour, students have been invited to submit responses to any work of art in the Library, and a panel of judges will select a winner, who will be awarded $500. This award has been made possible through the generous support of Professor Archie Rand and Gallery Director Maria Rand.
announcements

The Brooklyn College Library showcased books by faculty members at the 2nd Annual Brooklyn Book Festival outside Borough Hall on September 16. Ten thousand book lovers had the chance to speak the faculty about their works. On October 11, the Brooklyn College Library held a reception for Professor Emeritus Stuart Schaar, who donated his substantial book and manuscript collection on North African and Middle Eastern culture, history, and politics. This collection will be housed in the Archives and Special Collections Division of the library and will be available to scholars and students in 2009.

The Graduate Center’s Eighteenth-Century Reading Room hosted two fall lectures: “Jewish Biblical Interpretation in the Wake of the Enlightenment: Moses Mendelssohn, Judah Ben-Se’ev, and the Rhetoric of Religion” by Dr. David Richter of the Graduate Center and Queens and “Out to Eat: The Emergence and Evolution of the Restaurant in Nineteenth-Century New York” by Dr. Cindy Lobel of Lehman. The Eighteenth-Century Reading Room also sponsors a CUNY-wide essay competition.

ETC Committee Event: Ubuntu and Linux for Librarians

On November 16, 2007, the Emerging Technologies Committee hosted an event at City College’s Cohen Library. Dave Shields, Program Director for the Open Source Software Linux Technology Center, Systems and Technology Group at IBM, gave a talk entitled “Ubuntu and Linux for Librarians.” Dr. Shields, an avid blogger who co-wrote Jikes, one of IBM’s first open source project, said, “programming is just a form of writing”. Dr. Shields is actually a gifted storyteller in the classic sense, able to bring life to any point to life with an apt anecdote.

His discussion dealt with open document formats and their practical and cultural impact on our future as libraries and citizens.

During his discussion, he asked librarians to consider the fact that twenty years ago, a five megabyte disk drive cost $5,000 and now a 1 terabyte hard drive may go for under $300. Meanwhile, used to cost $200 and still does. He discussed the dual synergy of the Internet, mostly made using open source software, HTML, and shared documents. Without monetizing it, anyone is able to contribute.

On education, Dr. Shields said, “the great tragedy of personal computer is that all the money went into making games rather than into education.” He is due to receive a laptop from the “One Laptop Per Child” initiative which uses the open-source Ubuntu platform.

Telling us about victims of Hurricane Katrina who were unable to request aid via forms that could only be viewed via Internet Explorer, Dr. Shields discussed the importance of open, non-proprietary formats for libraries of the future to be able to access documents.

Noting how a well-placed blog title will make it to the top of the search results of what he called “the world’s library,” Google, Dr. Shields discussed the notion of authority and what it means in today and tomorrow’s world. He is also concerned with those things left unsaid and how it will impact history and our collective remembrance of events.

During the question and answer session, Dr. Shields discussed open source products such as Open Office and IBM’s Lotus Symphony. We’re very excited that Dave wrote his talk up on his November 17, 2007 blog entry at: http://daveshields.wordpress.com/

Additional photos and notes can be found here.

Dave Shields (center) with Daisy Dominguez and Steve Ovadia
Research is a major part of the librarian’s job, and CUNY librarians have opportunities to get funding to help support it. PSC-CUNY Grants are administered by the Research Foundation of CUNY and are open to all permanent full-time instructional staff. Junior faculty members are encouraged to apply. According to City Tech’s Anne Leonard, who moderated the September 20 workshop at Baruch’s Newman Library, there have been more than 75 successful applicants among CUNY librarians since 2000. The workshop was sponsored by the LACUNY Professional Development Committee which is co-chaired by Anne Leonard and Linda Roccoss (College of Staten Island). Panel members included recent grant awardees Janet Munch (Lehman College), Linda Roccoss, Angela Sidman (Graduate Center) and David Brodherson (Baruch).

Following Leonard’s introduction, Janet Munch, Chair of the Library Panel, reviewed the application process, eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria. (available at http://rfcuny.org under the Research & Awards menu). She discussed the importance of covering the “who, what, when, where, and why” on the application’s narrative section. She shared tips on what to include in both the abstract and narrative, especially the significance of the study, its contribution to the field and providing a context.

Munch offered a number of other tips including:

- Talking to colleagues who have applied in previous cycles.
- Talking with your local grant offices to make sure you know the various deadlines which can differ from college to college.
- Making it clear what you absolutely need as requests for items extraneous to research could lead to rejection.
- Reviewing sample applications (available on the Research Foundation web site).
- Asking someone to read your completed application.
- Checking with your campus Institutional Review Board concerning requirements if your research project has involves human subjects.

Linda Roccoss, who received a grant for her “Bibliography for the Archaeology Study Collection at the College of Staten Island,” suggested keeping the proposal: “It makes sense to get friendly with your local grants officer early on,” she said. Applications go to the Research Foundation of CUNY via local campus grants offices, and local officers can give solid advice and perhaps even be willing to proofread an application before it is submitted. Angela Sidman received funding for a project that grew out of her Masters thesis, “Artist, Collector, Dealer: Medieval manuscripts from the Charles Fairfax Murray collection.” She found that some of the “circular documentation” provided on the various websites obscured the application process. She, too, stressed the importance of talking to your local grants office “even if you think you don’t need to.”

David Brodherson gave a brief summary of what he learned with his grant to support research on Frank Weitenkampf, the first curator of the print collection at NYPL. He also shared the insight he gained in realizing that he could have used grant money to hire a student for transcribing an unpublished manuscript.

Grant amounts have averaged $3,000-4,000 in the past few years, and Munch said there was approximately a 75% success rate. Notification comes about 6 months after the application deadline, usually in April. The application for the current cycle (Cycle 39, grant funding period July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) has passed, but check with your local grant offices for any out-of-cycle and emergency fund needs.

For a list of past library awardees and project abstracts, visit http://lacuny.cuny.edu/committees/professional/ and scroll down to PSC-CUNY Grants.

Twelve CUNY libraries have been awarded a 2007-2008 CUNY Collaborative Incentive Grant (CIRG) for the topic “Information Literacy, Critical Thinking, and Technology: Gathering Data on CUNY Students’ Performance on Scenario Tasks Assessing ICT Skills.” The $40,000 grant will be used to administer the ETS iSkils test to just under 150 students per campus during the spring semester.

Teresa McManus (Bronx) leads the project. Other participating librarians are Jerry Bornstein (Baruch), Alexandra de Luise (Queens), Jane Devine (LaGuardia), Lisa Ellis (Baruch), Jeanne Galvin (Queensborough), Karl Madden (Medgar Evers), Karen Mason (Medgar Evers), Mariana Regalado (Brooklyn), Ellen Sexton (John Jay), Tess Tobin (City Tech), Susan Voge (Lehman), Stephanie Walker (Brooklyn), and Lucinda Zoe (Hostos).
Aftermath of the Peruvian Earthquake: An Eyewitness Account

As many of you are aware, Peru suffered a devastating earthquake on August 15, 2007. There was catastrophic damage to cities and homes, mainly in the southern region. During October I had the privilege of participating in relief work with the Fordham Manor Church. This involved reconstruction, distributing food, blankets and other necessities.

The photograph depicts the plight of many Peruvians, whose adobe houses could not withstand the earthquake’s force. The house with an “X” is targeted for demolition. Owners of such houses must now live with others in tents until suitable housing can be secured.

Although Peruvians were affected by this disaster, I witnessed enormous strength, resiliency and hope in the Peruvian spirit.

Jessica Hernandez, (Lehman College)

Rethinking Library Resource Sharing at CUNY and Beyond

Information resource sharing is a defining library activity, and providing access to information is certainly at the forefront of library philosophy and practice. Through online ventures, increasingly liberal circulation policies, and various interlibrary loan schemes, librarians can help patrons retrieve information not only from their own libraries but also from other libraries and information providers around the world.

Despite these advances, library efforts to help people access information remain relatively slow and costly, especially when contrasted with how quick, easy, and often inexpensive it is to buy a book online or to find free, quality information. This is why librarians, vendors, and others participating in the Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative (RRSI) have been asking librarians to rethink their policies and services and to reconsider how well served patrons are by traditional interlibrary loan and document delivery arrangements.

At CUNY, for instance, through the CLICS intra-borrowing system, we are harnessing new policies, technologies, and staffing patterns to better serve our patrons. Using our circulation system instead of OCLC makes loaning books among CUNY libraries simpler and quicker for patrons, as well as less expensive, all of which is beneficial for libraries and librarians.

Librarians can also consider what we might learn from Internet businesses such as Amazon, Google, and Netflix. The RRSI is working on an online plugin that will show whether a needed item is available at online bookstores, in a local library, or through interlibrary loan. Such an option will give patrons more choices, making it as easy to order materials through their libraries as it is to do so through Amazon. There is also discussion of whether, like Netflix, libraries can successfully provide home delivery and/or do away with overdue charges. Another possibility for librarians is, instead of ordering certain books through ILL, buying reasonably priced copies instead.

There are also issues regarding how we might use our collective bargaining power to encourage publishers to charge libraries per use when patrons find something they want to see online or to allow us, within existing fair use guidelines, to use our electronic journal subscriptions for any CUNY patron. We might also use scan and/or print-on-demand services so that rare items that cannot be physically lent can be cost effectively and carefully scanned and then made available to researchers.

The RRSI has issued a manifesto (doc) to help guide the discussion as librarians work to change the way they address information resource sharing. I serve as chair of the RRSI Marketing Committee, and the group welcomes anyone interested in joining their Delivery, Interoperability, Marketing, Policies, and User Needs Committees. Upcoming RRSI events include a Spring Forum, a STARS Pre-Conference at ALA Annual, and a new prize for innovative ideas in resource sharing. For more information, see the RRSI site or contact me at bposner@gc.cuny.edu.

Beth Posner (Graduate Center)
Awards and Grants

Rebecca Adler (Staten Island) received a LACUNY Professional Development Grant to attend “Digital Media, Learning, and Libraries: Web 2.0, Learning 2.0, and Libraries 2.0,” the 2007 ACRL Conference in Baltimore.

Monica Berger (City Tech) was among the City Tech faculty receiving a Faculty Development Grant from CUNY CASTL (Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning) for their Green Brooklyn project. Monica’s role is to provide support for the integration of information literacy into curriculum for interdisciplinary student research related to urban sustainability.

An article by Jerry Bornstein and Louise Klusek (Baruch) was named one of the top-twenty information literacy articles of 2006 by ALA’s Library Instruction Round Table. “Information Literacy Skills for Business Careers: Matching Skills to the Workplace” appeared in Journal of Business and Finance Management 11.4 (2006): 3-22.

Michael Miller (Queens) received a PSC-CUNY Research Award for the topic “New Media Commons, 2010: The State of the Art in Academic Library Media Services Support.”

Jennifer Oates (Queens) and John James, Associate Professor of Music and Direct of Choral Activities at Queens, received a PSC-CUNY grant to record songs of Hamish MacCunn with the Queens College Vocal Ensemble and voice majors at Queens. Sales of the June recording will support Queens’ choral program.

Katherine Parsons (Bronx) received a Mentor Certificate from the BCC CUNY Month Steering Committee on November 5. Katherine was chosen for her outreach across the curriculum, including one-on-one support for visually challenged students.

Suzanna Simor (Queens) received a Sherman Clarke Professional Development Award from the Art Libraries Society of North America/New York Chapter in support of image license fees for her monograph Imaging the Creed: Visualizations of the Christian Creeds from Charlemagne to Luther, to be published by Brepols/Harvey Miller in 2009.

Exhibitions

Daisy Domínguez and Sydney Van Nort (City) curated “The Russell Sage Foundation Library Collection at CCNY” on display in the Cohen Library September 17-October 5.

Suzanna Simor and Alexandra de Luise (Queens) curated “Face to Face: From See to Shining See: Photographs by Sid Kerner,” August 27-October 31, and “Brush with Nature: Installation Art by Barbara Roux,” November 5-December 21. The latter exhibition was co-sponsored by the Queens Department of Biology and the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences and continued the school’s participation in Focus the Nation, a national education initiative aimed at raising awareness about climate change and global warming: www.focusthenation.org.

Profiles of Beth Evans and Maura Smale (Brooklyn) have been added to ACRL’s “Meet Our Members” site. Stanton Biddle (Baruch) was previously profiled.

Mounir Khali (City) compiled “Selected Bibliography on Intervention, Retention, and Mentoring Students with Disabilities” for LACUNY’s Disability Services Roundtable (pdf).

Louise Klusek (Baruch) developed, with Jana O’Keefe Bazzoni, chair of Baruch’s Department of Communication Studies, and Diane DiMartino, retired Baruch librarian, the tutorial “Guide to Research for Oral Presentations: Finding, Evaluating, and Using Online Sources.”

Michael Miller (Queens) has two-year appointments on ALA’s Resolutions Committee and its Task Force on Electronic Member Participation.


Rita Ormsby (Baruch) has convened, with Brita Servaes of the New School, a Metro Green Librarianship Special Interest Group. The SIG grew out of Brita’s suggestion at the Library Camp conducted at Baruch in August.

Kevin Reiss (Graduate Center), with Paul Albert of Weill Cornell Medical Library, convened Library 2.0, a new Metro Special Interest Group. Library 2.0 will focus on the implementation and use of next-generation library services, including social networking tools, social tagging software, digital library systems, institutional repositories, federated search tools, next-generation OPACs, and...
the protocols and programming tools that power these applications.

Kenneth Schlesinger (Lehman) attended the summer 2007 Academic Library Leadership Institute at Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College.

Polly Thistlethwaite (Graduate Center) has been Chair of the Board of the Graduate Center’s Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies since May.

Stephanie Walker (Brooklyn) has been elected to ALA’s Scholarships & Study Grants Committee and the Library and

**Milestones**

Noel Agnew joined Queens in September as a substitute instruction and reference librarian. Noel, who has an MA in Irish studies from Queen’s University, Belfast, and an MLS from Queens, is also bibliographer for English and American literature, comparative literature, and drama, theater, and dance.

Martha Corpus (Brooklyn) has been granted tenure.

Valeda Dent, former co-editor of News from CUNY Libraries, left Hunter in August to become Associate University Librarian for Research and Instructional Services at Rutgers University (New Brunswick).

John Drobnicki (York) was appointed Acting Chief Librarian on July 2.

Caroline Fuchs (Graduate Center) received an MA in history from Queens in August. Her thesis is “Reasons to Celebrate: New York and the Opening of the Erie Canal in 1825.”

Rita Gregory, an adjunct at Bronx Community College, was promoted to CUNY Administrative Assistant, Level 1A, at City College, on November 22.

Pat Young, assistant director of the Office of Library Services, retired on August 31. At the Winter Membership Meeting on December 14, Pat was made a lifetime member of LACUNY in honor of her many achievements.

Neil Jacobowitz (Graduate Center) retired in October. Neil joined City College in 1990 and moved to the Graduate Center in 2000.

Scott Johnston (Graduate Center) received tenure in September.

Catherine Lyons (Hostos) has completed her MS in management at New York University and has been promoted from instructor to assistant professor.

Kenneth Schlesinger, formerly of LaGuardia, was appointed Chief Librarian at Lehman on August 1.

Di Su (York), already Head of Circulation and Reserve, was appointed Head of Public Services in September.

Polly Thistlethwaite (Graduate Center) has been promoted to professor.

Sunny Yoon joined the Office of Library Services in August as Digital Resources Coordinator. Sunny, who has an MA in linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MLS from Rutgers University, had served as content management librarian at the New York University Medical Library.
**Publications**

Monica Berger (City Tech), Anamika Dasgupta (York), Sara Marcus (Queens Graduate School of Library and Information Studies), Karen Mason (Medgar Evers), Rita Ormsby (Baruch), Roman Santillian (Staten Island), Ellen Sexton (John Jay), Catherine Stern (LaGuardia), and Stephanie Walker (Brooklyn) published “Practical Advice for Weeding in Small Academic Libraries” in Collection Building 26.3 (2007): 84-87.


**Presentations**

Laura Cobus (Hunter Health Professions) presented “Web 2.0 and Information Literacy: The Importance of Critical Thinking in the Health Sciences” at “Library 2.0: A New Social Model,” the ACRL/NY Annual Symposium at Baruch on November 30.

Daisy Dominguez (City) presented “The Dialogues Less Traveled in The True History of the Conquest of Peru , 1534” at “Einstein’s in the City 2: An International Student Research Conference,” at City College on October 31.

Beth Evans (Brooklyn), with Shannon Kealey of New York University , a poster session entitled “Social Network Faceoff: What’s Right for Your Library?” at the LITA Annual Forum in Denver , October 4-7. Beth and Shannon also presented this session at the November 30 ACRL/NY Annual Symposium.

Rita Gregory (City College and Bronx) was one of three presenters of a workshop, “The Benefits of the Library Assistants’ Association,” at Brooklyn Public Library on October 15.

Scott Johnston (Graduate Center) gave a presentation about Eighteenth-Century Collections Online as part of a program on proven instructional strategies held by Metro’s Bibliographic Instruction Special Interest Group on October 31. At a June 13 session on the same topic, Anamika Dasgupta (York) gave a LexisNexis presentation, while Anne Leonard (City Tech) discussed strategies for the Historical New York Times and Kathleen Collins (then of the Graduate Center, now at John Jay) explained RefWorks.

Louise Klusck (Baruch) presented “U.S. Census Microdata” as part of “Using Census Data: Beyond the Household Survey,” a New York Census Research Data Center workshop at Baruch, May 15. Louise also presented “XBRL and Financial Reporting” at the Special Libraries
Association Annual Conference in Denver on June 5 and was a panelist on “From the Front Line: Views about Current Issues Confronting Information Professionals” at the Special Libraries Association New York Chapter on May 2.

**Michael Miller** (Queens) presented “Libraries 2.0 Meets Web 2.0: Preparing for the Future of Librarianship” as part of a Future of Libraries panel for the United Federation of Teachers’ Library Media Committee in New York on March 21.

**Jennifer Oates** (Queens) presented “Brigadoon: Lerner and Loewe’s Scotland” at the Musical Theatre in 1957 Symposium honoring the fiftieth anniversary of Murphy Hall, the music building at the University of Kansas, Jennifer’s alma mater, on November 5.

**Mariana Regalado, Alex Rudshteyn,** and **Vyacheslav Gurgov** (Brooklyn) gave a presentation about Brooklyn’s Subject Resource Management System Version 2.0 at the CUNY IT Conference at John Jay on November 30.

**Scott Sheidlower** (York) presented “Information Literacy: The Missing Piece of the Puzzle” at the Georgia Information Literacy conference at Georgia Southern University on September 7.

**Susan Thomas** appeared on the panel “Literary Magazines Go Electronic: Now Where’s the Print Edition in the Library” on September 13 and the Housing Works bookstore in Manhattan. The panel was part of the National Book Critics Circle’s Campaign to Save Book Reviews and was co-sponsored by Library Journal.

**Patricia Woodard** (Hunter) presented “As Others See Us: Hymn Singing in the Mainstream Press” at the annual meeting of the Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada at Carleton University in Ottawa in July.

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**Obituaries**

**Liborio Campisi**

Liborio Campisi, longtime Manager of Systems Programming at the Office of Library Services, died on October 27.

After several years with H. W. Wilson, he joined OLS in 1987, beginning as a systems programmer for the integrated library system project. Liborio, who had degrees in history and mathematics and a passion for opera, was responsible for the data processing operation of CUNY’s central catalog from its Notis days to the current Aleph system.

At Liborio’s passing, Greg Dunkel of the CUNY Central Office praised his “spirit and dedication to his work.” Curtis Kendrick, University Librarian, said, “One of the ways we can best honor Liborio is by working to make sure that the system to which he dedicated a large share of his life continues to work well.”

According to Marsha Ra, Curtis’s predecessor, Liborio “was devoted to CUNY libraries and worked untold hours keeping the system going even when he was gravely ill. I would also say he was one of the kindest human beings I have ever known.”

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**Gladys Wynne Jarrett**

Gladys Wynne Jarrett, one of three original York College librarians, died July 15, 2007, at the age of ninety-one.

Born in Barnesville, Georgia, Gladys graduated from Hunter in 1936, received an MA in Spanish from Columbia in 1937 and an MLS from Pratt in 1963. She began her library career as a technical assistant in the New York Public Library in 1948 and later worked at Syracuse University, the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina, Brooklyn Public Library, and Pace College before coming to York as a cataloging librarian in 1967.

She was later Head of Public Services, Acting Chief Librarian, and Chief Librarian from 1976 to 1985. She is believed to have been the first African-American woman to be a CUNY chief librarian. Gladys was also president of LACUNY in 1972-1973.

Dr. Hobart Jarrett, her husband of sixty-five years before his death in 2005, taught English at Brooklyn College from 1961 to 1986.
Obituaries

Alyce Stiegelbauer

Alyce Stiegelbauer, retired York librarian, died December 22, 2006, at the age of 79.

Alyce began working at York as a college assistant in 1971. After earning an MLS from Queens in 1978, she served as evening librarian, head of cataloging, head of circulation, head of public services, systems coordinator, and deputy chief librarian. Alyce, who also had an MA in English from Queens, retired in 1988.

Richard Wall

Richard Wall, a member of the Queen College Libraries faculty since 1975, died July 7, 2007.

Dick served as Queens' bibliographer for several areas in the humanities, including English and American literature, theater, and film. He also served as the library’s collection development specialist, coordinating all subject bibliographers in evaluating collections, testing new electronic and digital products, and assisting in preparing recommendations for the Tech Fee Committee.

Dick, who had an MLS from Simmons and an MA in English from Brandeis, served as Queens’ representative on the CUNY Libraries Electronic Resources Advisory Committee for many years, chaired the library’s Collection Development Steering Committee and Publications Committee, coordinated exhibits in the Rosenthal Library, served on the board of the Theatre Library Association, and chaired its awards committee for over a decade.

The Queens Libraries conducted a memorial service on December 4 and devoted the fall issue of PAGE-down, its newsletter, to memories of Dick: qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/Library/pagedown/index.html.

In February 2007, the Queens film studies collection, which Dick painstakingly developed, was named in his honor. To continue the development of the collection, the Richard Wall Film Studies Fund was created. Checks to the Queens College Foundation should include the memo line “for the Richard Wall Film Studies Fund” and may be sent to Professor Shoshana Kaufmann, Associate Librarian for Development, Benjamin Rosenthal Library, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11367. For further information, contact Shoshana at Shoshana.Kaufmann@qc.cuny.edu or 718-997-3741.

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Co-Editors
Michael Adams, Graduate Center, madams@gc.cuny.edu
Scott Johnston, Graduate Center, sjohnston@gc.cuny.edu

Web Designer
Junior Tidal, City Tech, jtidal@citytech.cuny.edu