From the Dean

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Happy 2020! I hope you had a restorative break, and greet you not only at the beginning of our new semester, but also the new decade! On behalf of the entire Rio Hondo College Library staff, I want to welcome you back, and let you know about some things we’re very excited about at your RHC Library.

First and foremost, although this is the third issue of The Library Checkout, in addition to our usual online version, this is the first time we are publishing print copies to be distributed to faculty and staff members on FLEX Day, and to students as an insert in an upcoming issue of El Paisano. As usual, Librarian Brian Young is the editor-in-chief and lead designer of the newsletter, with RHC Library faculty members and staff serving as photographers and contributors.

Look to The Library Checkout at the beginning of each semester to augment news I share in mid-month Library update emails and developments Librarian Claudia Rivas shares on our RHC Library social media sites. (And for those of you who don’t follow us on Instagram and/or Facebook and/or Twitter yet, don’t delay! You can find RHC Library on all of these platforms @riohondolibrary.)

In this issue of the newsletter, we highlight Library services for students, staff, and faculty (and tell you how to access them); discuss our ever-changing Library and Featured Book displays; once again feature two RHC Library team members; draw your attention to upcoming, new “zine” workshops; and tell you how to access archival photographs and videos of the construction of the RHC Library and the Learning Resource Center building, which opened for the first time just a little more than ten years ago, in fall 2009.

Remember: RHC Library is the best place place to discover books and articles to support your research and learning; seek assistance from supportive, professional librarians and staff members who are onhand every hour we’re open to help you with all your research and resource needs; and to collaborate, study, read, or just relax in a safe and calm space. But that’s not all: Even if you’re off-campus, as a member of the RHC community, you can access electronic books and resources—including tens of thousands of films via our Films on Demand subscription and over 65 popular magazines via our Flipster database—just by going to the Articles & Databases page on the RHC Library website.

Finally, if there’s something we don’t have that you think we should, let us know! We encourage all RHC Library patrons—faculty, staff, and students alike—to share their great ideas via email or in-person conversations about what can make the space and the collections and services here even better.

Thank you for your time and help, and we hope to see you in the Library soon!

Sincerely,
Mike Garabedian
Dean, Library and Instructional Support
Library Services for Students

RHC Library offers a variety of academic resources and services to support the students of Rio Hondo College. If you are a new student, or haven’t visited the Library lately, here are just a few things that the Library has to offer:

NEED A BOOK OR ARTICLE?
RHC Library has more than 80,000 print books, most of which can be checked out with your RHC student ID. We also offer a variety of course textbooks (for use within the Library), and a large selection of electric books. Along with print and digital periodicals (i.e., magazines, journals, and newspapers), RHC students also have access to online databases that are excellent sources for scholarly articles and information for your research. Check out our website at www.riohondo.edu/library, or come in and ask one of our friendly librarians, to easily find what you are looking for!

NEED TO PRINT? OR USE A COMPUTER?
There are over 40 computer workstations in the Library for student use. You can print from our computers or your own laptop for $0.10 (black & white) or $0.50 (color) per page. Our Copy Center also provides photocopier access, and payment options include cash or credit/debit cards through your MyPrint account (myprint.riohondo.edu). Laptops, headphones, noise-reducing earmuffs, and graphing calculators can also be checked out for use in the Library.

NEED RESEARCH HELP?
Whether you need help finding books or articles, focusing your research question, or using citation formats, a friendly librarian is always ready to assist you. We also offer workshops on a variety of useful subjects, and provide online research guides through our website. Not on campus? There are plenty of other ways to contact us (during operating hours):

- Reference Desk: 562-908-3484
- Text a Librarian: 562-418-5253
- Chat/IM with a Librarian: www.riohondo.edu/library

For extra help, extended one-on-one research consultations can also be scheduled: just ask a librarian!

NEED A QUIET PLACE TO STUDY OR A ROOM FOR GROUP WORK?
Located on the 2nd floor of the Learning Resource Center (LRC), RHC Library provides a quiet and comfortable environment in which students can study and relax. If you are working on a group project, we have 7 group study rooms available. These rooms accommodate 2 to 6 students, can be checked out for up to 2 hours, and are available on a “first come, first served” basis.

Zine Workshops!

Zines (pronounced “zeens”) are DIY magazines made with minimal materials and little effort, but contain high-impact meaning and messages. They are intentionally anti-commercial, with limited copies made on copiers or printers; and can be sold, swapped, or given away. Typically created by traditionally marginalized or alienated individuals and/or communities, zines provide one kind of platform for these voices to be heard. Zines can be educational, political, fun, informative, and/or personal. They can be used as calls to action or as promotional tools.

RHC Library is now offering Zine workshops to students! Workshops are open to all, will be held once a month, and consist of a brief presentation with a zine-making activity to follow. NO registration is required, and all materials will be provided FREE of charge. Follow us on Instagram or check our website for dates and times. Faculty members can also schedule a workshop for their entire class by emailing Librarian Claudia Rivas at crivas@riohondo.edu. And our supply cart has wheels, so we can also come to you!
Spotlight on ...

Library/LRC Celebrating Tenth Anniversary!

Just a little more than ten years ago, in Fall 2009, the Learning Resource Center was opened to the students and staff of Rio Hondo College. As the first new building on campus in over 40 years, the new Library/LRC site was an ambitious $34.7 million dollar project, primarily funded by Bond Measure A (passed by voters in 2004). At 94,000 square feet, the building’s first floor comprises mainly student services centers and labs (e.g., the Learning Assistance Center, First Year Success Center, and Writers’ Resource Center), while the Library takes up the majority of the second floor. As stated in the building’s original design concept, “The fundamental goal was to make this Learning Resource Center the heart of the campus, where students and faculty would feel at home.”

Originally located in the currently-being-renovated “L Tower” (where “L” stood for “Library”), the updated Rio Hondo College Library gained a beautifully sunlit, accessible, and expanded area to display over 80,000 books and periodicals. In addition, a number of new amenities, such as two library classrooms, group study rooms, a computer commons area, archives space, and more room for students to read and study comfortably were included.

While the new Library was much better suited to meet the needs of RHC students, the move was not without its difficulties. According to Adele Enright, former Rio Hondo College librarian, “The successes of the Library building were due to the entire Library working as a team to pull off this once-in-a-lifetime endeavor. Some tears were shed—tears of frustration, exhaustion, and happiness! In the end, I believe we were all relieved to be in a new library.”

For extensive photos and videos of the Library/LRC site construction, visit the Rio Hondo College Library Archives collection at https://www.riohondo.edu/library/lrc-construction-photos.

Library Displays

RHC Library is fortunate to have a large, three-section display case in the lobby. For the past seven years, Librarian Karen Bourgaize has been creating and curating displays on a wide variety of subjects; highlights include banned books, RHC services, national parks, literature-into-films, LGBTQ history, elections, Olympics, antique maps, holidays and other observances, children’s literature, and exhibits on the work of Lalo Alcaraz, Victor Villasenor, Dr. Seuss, and Frida Kahlo.

The Library has also collaborated with faculty members to showcase student projects. In Spring 2020, we will exhibit the student work of Professor Lucha Arevalo’s CHST 101 (Introduction to Chicano Studies), CHST 146 (Mexican-American History in the U.S.), and CHST 148 (La Chicana: The Contemporary Mexican-American Female) courses; along with a collaborative display with Professor Warren Roberts that will explore the 2020 Census and GIS applications.

Displays are typically exhibited for approximately a month. The Library maintains an archive of photographs of all displays, available at https://libguides.riohondo.edu/librarydisplays.

Story Time at the Library

Last semester, RHC Library was pleased to welcome three- and four-year olds from the Child Development Center for Story Time. The children make the trek up the hill on Fridays at 10 AM to the “Treehouse” area of the Library, where our children’s book collection is shelved. Librarians and staff members on the Library’s Programming Committee read a book or two, after which the children look at books of their choosing. One day we played follow-the-leader through the Library stacks, and the children were amazed at how many books we have! We’ve collaborated with Dr. Shireetha Geathers, Director of the CD Center, to establish this fun and instructive weekly event, and will continue it in the Spring Semester.

The children have been very excited about their Library visits, said they like to “listen when the ladies read,” and learned how to “be quiet and be a good listener.” One of the assistants shared her appreciation that the children are being introduced to literature though a variety of books, some familiar and some new to them. Another said the children are enthusiastic about going to the Library and look forward to it each week.

Of course, grown-ups like you are welcome at Story Time! If you’re interested in listening along, come join us in the Treehouse (the westernmost side of RHC Library) Friday mornings at 10 AM!
Attention, Alumni!

And future alumni, Rio Hondo graduates are lifetime Library patrons!

As a graduate of Rio Hondo College, you can count on a lifetime of excellent service and access to all Library resources and services. Whether you are continuing on at another college and need high quality assistance, you want great books to read to your children, or just need access to a computer or printer, Rio Hondo College Library is here for you.

Just come to the Circulation Desk and let us know you’ve graduated to become an official Library Alumni patron!

Read Across America

Last year, RHC Library featured team members and their favorite reads by creating our own Read Across America posters, then sharing them on our website (https://www.riohondo.edu/library/read-across-america/) and on Instagram. This year, Read Across America falls on Monday, March 2, and the Library wants to feature YOUR favorite reads! All departments and staff are welcome! If you are interested in being featured, please contact Librarian Claudia Rivas as soon as possible at crivas@riohondo.edu. Your poster will be featured on our website and social media, but we can also print a poster for your classroom! Plus, your book will be added to RHC Library’s Featured Books display!

Library Admin and Faculty

DEAN OF LIBRARY
Mike Garabedian (ext. 3417)

FULL-TIME LIBRARIANS
Robin Babou (ext. 3375)
Young Lee (ext. 3379)
Claudia Rivas (ext. 3378)
Irene Truong (ext. 3377)
Brian Young (ext. 3376)

PART-TIME LIBRARIANS (ext. 3484)
Vivian Arenas-Vellanoweth, Gabriel Beeler, Karen Bourgaize, Maria Cruz, Trish Garcia, Bruce Guter, Lawrence Mak, Carolyn Oldham, Cynthia Palacios, Summer Peng, Gina Singh

Library Services For Faculty Members

To inquire about or schedule any of the services listed above, visit https://www.riohondo.edu/library/services-for-faculty, or just send us an email at rihondocollegelibrary@gmail.com.

Library Profiles

RUDY MARTINEZ
Library Technician

Tell us about yourself.
I was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Boyle Heights. I attended East Los Angeles College and Cal State Los Angeles.

How long have you worked at Rio Hondo College?
I started in 1998. Hired for the “evening shift,” I work until the 9 PM closing time. Before working at Rio, I also worked at LA City College, Cal Tech, East LA Public Library, and the Central County Juvenile Hall Library in Lincoln Heights.

What does your job consist of in the Library?
Among other duties, I maintain the Library’s Course Reserve Collection and assist with duties at the Library’s Circulation Desk, mostly in the late afternoon/evening hours.

What do you like best about working at Rio Hondo College?
The collaborative nature of the RHC library work environment, and the campus at large. And assisting the friendly and appreciative students never gets old!

What is one interesting thing people might not know about you?
As a member of the Boyle Heights Historical Society, I do research and contribute posts to their blog website. One multi-part post was translated and published in a university academic journal in China! For the city of Los Angeles I recently contributed some writing to be included in several newly-installed stanchions (historical markers with photos and text) along sidewalks in Boyle Heights, as well some brief historical highlights to be included in several thousand “self-guided” tour booklets to be distributed for free in the area. No doubt, my life-long love for libraries and the great resources they provide have helped and inspired me tremendously.

Maria Cruz
Part-time Librarian

Tell us about yourself.
I am the second of four children, and I grew up in the city of Lynwood, California. Both my parents are from El Salvador, and they came to the U.S. in the 1980s fleeing the civil war. Their experience, and that of other Latin Americans, sparked my interest in 20th century Latin American history and art. As a result, I went on to pursue a BA in Art History and a MA in Latin American Studies from UCLA. During my studies there and my time at the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) in Long Beach, I discovered my passion and interests more closely aligned with the work librarians do, so I went on to earn a MS in Library Science from the University of North Texas with a specialty in academic libraries and digital curation.

How long have you worked at RHC?
I joined the team in fall 2019, and it has been a pleasure getting to meet everyone on campus—especially some of the regular Thursday night students and staff.

What does your job consist of in the Library?
In the Library, you can find me at the Reference Desk helping users to find books in our catalog, searching our many databases for articles or other sources, citations and formatting, and answering questions on our many library services. On occasion, you can also find me teaching a library orientation or workshop.

What do you like best about working at RHC?
Everything! For one thing, RHC Library has some of the most beautiful views of the city (especially in the evening). There is also a sense of community and collegiality among our staff, not to mention holiday spirit. The students at RHC are really nice and studious, and I am overall happy and grateful to be part of the RHC community.

What is one interesting thing people might not know about you?
I studied abroad in Salvador, Bahia in Brazil, where I also learned Portuguese.