

NEALLEY POST

News for Everyone from the Santa Ana College Nealley Library



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Volume 6, Issue 1, Fall 2017

Getting to Know Yolanda Garcia, Librarian Extraordinaire



Yolanda Garcia is known by many on campus through her dedication and work over several decades. In fact, this year she is celebrating her 32nd year at Santa Ana College! We are excited to feature Yolanda in this issue of our newsletter and share some of her life story with you.

Yolanda was born in Havana, Cuba. Her father, Sergio Lopez-Mesa, was an esteemed sculptor who studied in Italy. Her mother, Yolanda Lopez-Mesa, was a professor of Cuban history. At the age of six, Yolanda and her family left Cuba as political refugees. Her family first traveled to Mexico City, then had a short stay in Miami, Florida, and ultimately ended up making their home in Columbia, South Carolina, for many years. While in South Carolina, Yolanda's parents taught at Allen University. Her mother taught Spanish and her dad taught courses in art and art history.

Yolanda and her family moved to California in 1971 when her father was offered a sculpting position at

Mattel, Inc. She has lived in Redondo Beach, San Pedro, Riverside, and Santa Ana. She currently lives in Rancho Palos Verdes. Yolanda attended El Camino College and transferred to Cal State Long Beach where she received a bachelor's degree in Spanish literature. Her master's degree in library science is from UCLA. Her master's thesis was on library services to Spanish-speaking populations.

Before coming to SAC, Yolanda worked for 8 years as a librarian at the Anaheim Public Library. She was also a student worker at the UCLA Research Library. In her pre-library days, Yolanda was an eligibility worker for the Department of Public Social Services.

Yolanda is passionate about her family and the history of her family. She has two daughters and four grandchildren. Gardening, cooking, and entertaining are some of her other passions. She enjoys Cuban, Mediterranean, Italian, and Spanish food. If Yolanda was offered an all-expenses paid vacation to anywhere in the world, she would travel to Greece.

Thank you for all of your years of service to the SAC community, Yolanda! ♦

New Extended Library Hours

Your class has ended for the day. You have some time to study, but "home" is a bit too noisy right about now. What to do? Good news! The library has extended its hours of operation this semester. Come and find a quiet space to complete your paper. Find a space to read that difficult chapter. Find a table to meditate about life. Find a good book to expand your mind. Do it in the library! -Luis Pedroza ♦

New Extended Hours:

Monday-Thursday 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday 9:00-1:00 p.m. Saturday 10:00-2:00 p.m.

Meet Rafael Corona



Rafael Corona has been working at the front Circulation and Reserves Desk this semester as a Library Clerk I. He has a long connection to SAC and Santa Ana.

Rafael was born in Santa Ana and has lived his whole life here. He is a graduate of our Middle College High School! Rafael also graduated with his Associate's Degree in Library Technology from SAC last year and will be transferring to Cal State Fullerton to study liberal arts in the spring.

After obtaining his bachelor's degree, he plans to enter the San Jose State University Master of Library and Information Science program. His professional goal is to become a librarian.

Rafael has worked at the Santa Ana Public Library for 6 years as a Library Clerk. Before he was hired, he volunteered at the library for 7 years! If you don't find Rafael in a library in Santa Ana, you may find him reading at one of his favorite local spots: the Barnes and Noble on Main Street in Orange.

Rafael has two rescue dogs: a husky named Jedi and a dachshund mix named Sully after being found on Sullivan Street in Huntington Park. He would like to one day have a large, furry Alaskan Malamute.

Some of Rafael's passions in life are video games; reading fantasy and science fiction; and archery. His favorite movie is *A Knight's Tale*. If he could travel anywhere for an all-expenses paid trip, it would be difficult to choose between New Zealand for the Lord of the Rings Tour or Italy for the rich history of Rome and Florence. ♦

Poetic Activism



Featured above are the poets and readers who shared powerful and beautiful words at the 4th Annual Community Poetry Reading: Poetic Activism.

This year we held our 4th Annual Community Poetry Reading in Downtown Santa Ana at the Santora Arts Building on Thursday, November 30. Our theme for this reading was Poetic Activism. Students, faculty, and members of the community joined us to read original poems and poems by other poets to an enthusiastic and supportive audience. Faculty participants were Sal Addotta, Susan Hoang, Jeffrey "Spidey" Pedroza, Annie Knight, Stacy Russo, and Lance Lockwood. This year we also collaborated with Sarah Rafael Garcia and her LibroMobile Project, which "offers affordable books by writers of color; bilingual and Spanish books for readers of all ages; and books that speak to the culture and social justice issues relevant to the community."



Stay Hydrated: New Drink Policy

If you have stepped into the library recently, you will quickly note one of the major changes that occurred at the beginning of the fall semester: Drinks are now allowed in the library! This is great news for our students. We are always encouraged to live a healthy lifestyle. One of the best things we can do for ourselves is stay hydrated. A water bottle is an excellent choice. Your permissible, non-alcoholic, on campus beverage is welcome in the library.

Not all beverage containers are created equal. Please make certain that your favorite drink is in a sealed container. Have your favorite beverage container try our "**Am I a Library Friendly Container? Test.**" Fill your container with your favorite beverage. Tip the container on its side. Wait at least a minute. If none of the beverage has seeped or spilled out, your container has passed the test.

The Library staff encourages you to help the environment. Use a refillable container.
-Luis Pedroza ♦