

Queens Library CEO in the Spotlight

The water surrounding Queens Library (QL) president and CEO Thomas W. Galante just keeps getting hotter. In the weeks since the *New York Daily News* published a story detailing his \$392,000 annual salary and the pricey renovations done to his office while QL branches were suffering staff cuts, Galante has consistently denied any wrongdoing, even while other city officials call on him to step down from the post he has held since 2005.

On January 27, the *Daily News* reported that Galante earned a salary of \$391,954 in 2013 as the head of QL. While Galante's salary is a matter of public record, the *News* also reported that QL coffers had also been tapped to the tune of \$140,000 to pay for renovations to the CEO's office. Those renovations included a 250 square foot deck adjacent to the office, carrying a \$27,000 price tag, according to the *Daily News*.

Galante's salary and perks have raised eyebrows in Queens but have also caused ripples outside of the borough, prompting New York City comptroller Scott Stringer to call for an audit of all three of New York City's taxpayer-funded library systems.

"My auditors will assess whether the spending practices of our library systems follow applicable rules and prudent business practices," Stringer said in a statement.

Galante has defended his salary, calling it average among similarly sized nonprofit organizations. In a statement to New York's City Council on February 5, Galante said that his compensation was "at the same level as other New York City nonprofits of similar size and scope." According to financial filings, that's not far off, at least when one compares Galante's salary to that of his peers in New York's other library systems. In 2012, Anthony Marx, CEO of the New York Public Library (NYPL), which operates branches in the boroughs of Manhattan, Staten Island, and the Bronx, made a base salary of \$246,208 but brought home another \$181,016 in deferred and "other" compensation and nontaxable benefits, while Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) CEO Linda Johnson took home just south of \$280,021 in pay and \$48,646 in other compensation during the same span. Ken Brecher, president of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, earned \$290,000 in 2011, the last year for which financials are available for the NPO, which supports public librar-

Interview

Daniella Martin

Eating insects may sound like something straight out of a horror movie, but for entomophagist Daniella Martin, it's fun, tasty, and ecologically friendly. In *Edible: An Adventure into the World of Eating Insects and the Last Great Hope To Save the Planet*, Martin discusses her adventures preparing bugs all over the world.



When did you eat your first insect?

I had been studying pre-Columbian cuisine in Mexico, and insects played a significant role in the early Aztec and

Mayan diets. As a wannabe anthropologist, I knew I had to try [them] for myself.

Have you managed to make any converts out of friends or family?

My now husband not only eats bugs, he helps me come up with and test recipes. We served toasted crickets at our wedding. My husband's 90-year-old grandmother had a whole plateful.

Do you have a favorite insect recipe?

I really like bugs in stir-fries with a little onion, a little garlic, and some veggies. I have a six-ingredient cricket stir-fry with red cabbage and crickets that is excellent.

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Library of the Year

All libraries are good, some are great. *LJ* is looking for role-model libraries to vie for the honor of being the 2014 *Library Journal*/Gale Cengage Library of the Year. To learn more and submit your nominations, visit ow.ly/swYmZ.

Postmark deadline: April 5

EBSCO Information Services has expanded its ebook collections. Twenty-eight new subject sets are now available through **EBSCO ebooks**.

James Madison University Libraries, Harrisonburg, VA, switched to **Innovative Interfaces' Sierra Services Platform and Decision Center** collection management tool.

St. Louis County Library donated more than 2,000 handmade blankets, hats, gloves, and scarves to local charities as part of the Warm Up America project.

The **Library Company of Philadelphia** opened its "That's So Gay: Outing Early America" exhibit as a look at gay cultural expressions. It will run through October.

Parkland College Library, Champaign, IL, received the **2014 Community and Junior College Libraries Section EBSCO Community College Learning Resources Award** from the **Association of College and Research Libraries**.

Columbia University's School of Social Work, New York, adopted an open access policy for its published research, unanimously voted into effect last December.

The **Sacramento Public Library**, CA, was one of four institutions to receive a donation from the **Sacramento Kings** basketball team. The money will help fund the library's 1,600 reading programs.

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ies in L.A., while Chicago Library Commissioner Brian Bannon made \$167,000 in his first year on the job.

As Galante continues to claim that his salary and office renovations are on the up and up, in the weeks since the first story appeared in the *Daily News* there has been continued criticism of the CEO in the media. On February 9, the *Daily News* revealed

that in addition to his salary from QL, Galante also made \$287,000 over the course of 22 months between 2008 and 2010 as an independent business consultant to Long Island's Elmont Union School District.

While Galante may be drawing fire from some circles, he remains strongly supported by the QL Board of Trustees. "The Queens Library's record of accomplishment and its tremendous success as a leader in the field and as a critical resource for the people of Queens is largely attributable to Mr. Galante's leadership," read a statement released by the board on February 10.

Galante himself stands by that record as well. "Despite the fact that Queens Library was severely impacted by years of budget cuts...every one of our community libraries was kept open at least five days a week, including priority after-school hours," Galante told *Hotline*. QL was recognized as *Library Journal's* 2009 Library of the Year, during Galante's tenure.

Nashville Merging School and Public Library ILS

Limitless Libraries, an ongoing partnership between Nashville Public Library (NPL) and Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), is planning a move to a shared ILS system and has requested funding for the transition from the office of Nashville's mayor Karl Dean.

Launched in 2009 as a pilot test involving NPL and four local schools, Limitless Libraries has grown into a comprehensive program fostering resource sharing between NPL and all 128 MNPS schools. MNPS student IDs are recognized as library cards at the 21 branches and three special services libraries of NPL, and students can access NPL's online subscription resources, or use

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VP, Group Publisher Ian Singer
Editorial Director Rebecca T. Miller
Editor Ian Chant

Contributing Editors
Lauren Barack, Mahnaz Dar,
Kate DiGirolomo, Matt Enis, Bette-Lee Fox,
Meredith Schwartz, Jermaine Taylor

Art Production Josephine Marc-Anthony
Creative Director Mark Tuchman

TO CONTACT HOTLINE:

Editorial
Phone: (646) 380-0700
Fax: (646) 380-0756/0757
E-mail: LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com
160 Varick Street, 11th floor
New York, NY 10013

Advertising
Roy Futterman or your LJ rep
Phone: (646) 380-0718
rfutterman@mediasourceinc.com

Classified
Howard Katz, Classified Manager
Phone: (646) 380-0730

Production
JoAnn Powell, Production Manager
Phone: (646) 380-0741

Subscriptions
Phone: 800-588-1030
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NPL's OPAC to have books, CDs, DVDs, and other materials delivered to their school for convenient pick-up. Collaboration between the two institutions has also led to a weeding and centralized procurement program that enhanced and modernized MNPS school library collections and included the launch of a new collection of Common Core ebooks.

The program has become a much-watched success, demonstrating how partnerships between school libraries and public libraries can help boost usage of both systems. In fact, a steady, significant increase in demand for books and other materials has posed a bit of a challenge for NPL, according to associate director and 2012 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker Tricia Racke Bengel.

Growing demand "is a really good problem to have," she told *Hotline*. "We didn't expect our own circulation to go up so much, especially in juvenile nonfiction and juvenile materials, where circulation had been dwindling over the past several years. We really had to beef up our own collection, so that's been a great thing."

Currently, MNPS uses Library Solution for Schools by The Library Corporation (TLC), while NPL works with Innovative Interfaces Inc.'s (II) Millennium. Running the program with ILS systems from two separate vendors requires workarounds. Directing users to each catalog from a school library site or from the Limitless Libraries homepage is simple enough. But students must log in to each system separately to find their account information. In addition, there is no way for school librarians to see if students have overdue materials or fines from NPL, which poses a particular challenge for both systems, since MNPS students are a highly transitory population.

"We want to go to a single [ILS] system," said Racke Bengel. "It would

be the last barrier between us.... It will make Limitless Libraries not just a program that we've been running separately and outside of both of our institutions."

Since the 2010–11 academic year, MNPS has worked with NPL to update student account information in NPL's Millennium system on a nightly basis, enabling NPL to keep track

Science Kits Available for Checkout at Texas Libraries

Students, parents, and teachers can now borrow science experiments along with other materials from the Denton Public Library (DPL), TX, and run their own chemical and mechanical observations in class and at home. The science kits, geared toward youngsters age four to ten, include materials such as alligator clips, flashlight bulbs, and zinc nails—not the usual materials students bring home from the library.

The boxed experiments (pictured) are courtesy of high school students at the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science program at the University of North Texas, who wanted to see if they could stoke the love of science in their younger peers. All the library had to do was provide barcodes and labels so the kits could be put into circulation.

"The students really wanted to do this project," said Dana Tucker, public services librarian at DPL's North Branch, where the boxes were first made available to the public. "They wanted to create something that could be checked out of the library."

At each of the three library branches in Denton, students will be able to select one of 26 kits. The plastic cases housing the kits are loaded with laminated cards that walk students through the projects—from bringing a dead battery to life to building a light out of a potato. The boxes indicate both the grade level and the science theories explored, Tucker told *Hotline*. QR codes and links to additional online resources are also included.

Tucker said most kits can be run with food products or objects easily found around the home, from sugar to crayons. But many include supplies, and the library branches stock replacements.

From the experiments' circulation so far, those extras will come in handy. Within days of the kits appearing on the shelves, parents were calling to ask how they could reserve them. Almost all of the boxes had been checked out, said Tucker. The South Branch Library made kits available for circulation recently, as did the Emily Fowler branch as of the end of February.

"I know some of them are already on hold," Tucker said of the kits. "People are making special trips [to the library] just to borrow one."

The kits may be better suited to middle school rather than elementary school students, Tucker told *Hotline*, noting that some of the experiments "are a little bit over the head of the younger kids."

Even so, Tucker believes the boxes and the student-led programs will help to rev up the branch's future science initiatives. "Parents have expressed interest, so we're looking to see if the older students can do more programs," she said. "I hope the excitement keeps up."



of where students are enrolled and where checked out materials are. If the city approves this next phase of Limitless Libraries, MNPS libraries will be fully merged into the Millennium ILS, greatly simplifying the management of account and circulation information, as well as collection development and other projects.

Stationary Bikes Join Books in School Library

Would you rather burn a few pounds or read that next chapter of the latest Printz Award winner? Thanks to the addition of four new recumbent bicycles installed at the school library at Falls Church High

School (FCHS), VA, students don't have to choose. They can fit in some of their recommended daily physical activity while simultaneously catching up on reading and schoolwork.

With lean budgets and a decreased emphasis in some schools on time spent at play, schools nationwide are on the lookout for new and innovative opportunities to "kill two birds with one stone," said FCHS librarian Laura Potocki, who wrote a successful Healthy Kids grant to fund the purchase and installation of the machines.

"I wanted to find a way to bring more active students into the library to read and/or study; giving them an opportunity to exert energy while reading in a safe environment seemed like the way to go," Potocki told *Hotline*.

The successful grant was approved last October, and Potocki and her fellow FCHS librarian Carrie Kausch set up a corner of the library dedicated to the theme of health and fitness, she said.

They also added relevant magazine subscriptions to the collection, moved all of their periodicals to the new "Wellness Corner," and spruced up the overall library space so it now supports a healthy "teen-life balance."

The high school's new schoolwide Read & Ride program encourages students and staff to keep detailed logs of their bike sessions, which includes data on miles biked, as well as the number of pages read.

"Read & Ride ties in with our schoolwide reading incentive program, the Nifty 50, where students and staff are encouraged to read 50 books during the school year," Potocki added.

Response to the bikes has been overwhelming. "Just about every librarian in the county has emailed their congratulations," Potocki said. The FCHS administration has been overwhelmingly supportive, as have

Branching Out



contributions from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Save America's Treasures from the National Park Service.

The **Willard Library**, Evansville, IN, is looking to expand its 15,000 square foot space by an extra 8,000 square feet. Founded in 1885 and the oldest public library in the

The 13,000 square foot 1960s **Pasco Branch** (pictured) of the Mid-Columbia Libraries, Kennewick, WA, reopened on January 2 following a \$140,000 makeover. An infusion of \$15,000 from the city covered exterior paint and signage. Among the upgrades are new shelving in the children's area, paint, furnishings, exterior lighting, and additional electrical outlets to serve patrons needing to power up. Custom artwork from local artists adds a welcoming touch to the branch, which is the fourth busiest among the system's dozen facilities.

state, per the *Courier Press*, the Willard serves 17,000 patrons annually, but the confines of the building present challenges. The \$2.4 million construction project, supported through private giving, will include a gallery for exhibits and programming and expanded accommodation for Willard's vast historical archives and genealogical materials. The work is expected to last between eight and ten months.

The **Morgan Memorial Library**, Suffolk, VA, is looking forward to its second 27-year makeover. To facilitate the \$20 million project, ten parcels of land are being pursued for a new downtown library and satellite community college campus, per the *Suffolk News Herald*. The city approved \$2.1 million for the purchase of the properties. The library will feature a local history museum and a genealogy space, in addition to the collaboration with Paul D. Camp Community College, per the *Virginian-Pilot*.

Following receipt of a \$209,397 grant from the Champlin Foundation, the **Rhode Island Historical Society** library, Providence, will have its windows replaced, among other upgrades. Founded in 1822, the society has been looking to secure funding for the four- to six-month rehabilitation of what was previously a church. The latest grant will cap other contri-

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parents. One parent even emailed Potocki, calling the new bikes “the coolest idea ever.”

Science Launches OA Journal *Science Advances*

One of the biggest names in scholarly publishing announced it was entering the open access (OA) ecosystem on February 14, as the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) said that it would launch *Science Advances*, an online only OA journal covering the same broad range of research topics addressed by the AAAS flagship journal, *Science*.

The entry of *Science* into the OA landscape was dictated by several factors, not the least of which was advocacy from librarians and the researchers with whom they work. “Librarians are not a group we want-

ed to ignore, because they serve an awful large number of our readers,” Science editor in chief Marcia McNutt told *Hotline*. “We hear from our readers about the pressures on their libraries and on the library budgets. As we looked to publish more of the excellent research that we receive...we see that libraries are not able to bear more site license fees, so that doesn’t seem a viable route.”

McNutt also said the success of OA publishers like the Public Library of Science (PLOS) gave AAAS, which publishes *Science* and its sister journals *Science Translational Medicine* and *Science Signaling*, the confidence to forge ahead with an OA publication of its own. “We’ve been watching carefully what has worked and what hasn’t worked,” said McNutt. “At this point, we’ve seen enough that we feel we can enter the open access landscape and be successful.”

That entrance is a welcome one to OA advocates like Heather Joseph, executive director of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC). “We’re very happy that they’re joining the open access party,” Joseph told *Hotline*. “It’s been a long time coming, and we’re happy to see the largest science society in the United States step up to the plate.”

Joseph also suspects that there’s one other factor prodding traditional publishers like AAAS and the Royal Society of London, which announced on February 18 that it will be debuting its own OA journal in fall 2014, into the OA environment: new mandates requiring that an increasing percentage of government-funded research be published in open journals that are accessible to all readers. “Mandates have had a big effect on the marketplace,” said Joseph, who attributes such policies to a recent

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acceleration in the pace at which traditional publishers are offering OA alternatives. “It will become a competitive disadvantage not to have an open access option for your journal.”

Expanding the number of articles the AAAS publishes every year was also a major driver behind the decision to launch the nimbler, less overhead-intensive *Science Advances*, which McNutt said aims to publish several thousand articles every year by its fifth year in business. By contrast, *Science* publishes less than one thousand articles a year, or about six percent of the submissions it receives. “We’ve got three times that many articles that we review and improve and then send to get published in journals elsewhere, simply because we don’t have the room to publish them,” said McNutt, calling the process “the most inefficient business model you can imagine.”

Poetry Book by Teens Removed from AZ School

Sixth and seventh graders in the Mesa Public Schools (MPS) will have

to trek to their local library or high school to read *Things I Have To Tell You* (Candlewick, 2001), a collection of poems by teenagers that has been removed from the junior high school libraries in this Arizona community.

Following a request for reconsideration reportedly filed by Lauren Mitchell, the parent of a 13-year-old seventh grade student at Stapley Junior High School, both copies of the book were removed in February after a committee of staff and parents made the decision to pull the title. They will now offer the copies to the Mountain View High School Library.

“The committee’s choice was to offer the book for high school-level placement,” said Helen Hollands, spokesperson for MPS.

Requests to have books removed from school shelves in Mesa are rare, according to Hollands. Challenges have been made to the Harry Potter series, she said, though the titles remained on the shelves. The last such complaint stemmed around Nicholas Sparks’s novel *The Notebook* (Warner, 1996)—and in that case a com-

mittee chose to keep the book in the school as well, Hollands said.

“That was settled at the school level,” said Lisa Bowen, a certified school librarian and head librarian for MPS for the past three years. “That mom was going to have to tell her child [he/she] can’t check out the book, and that was fine.”

Things I Have To Tell You is a compilation of more than 30 poems written by teens ages 15–18 and edited by Betsy Franco. A *School Library Journal* review recommends the book for grades eight and up.

Stapley is the only junior high school library in Mesa that had the title on its shelf, said Hollands. The book also resides in Red Mountain High School’s library, where its ninth through 12th grade students may check it out.

Hollands believed the book may have been available in both the junior high school and high school because junior high schools in Mesa went up to the ninth grade until about five years ago, she said. When ninth graders were moved up to the high schools, school library collections were not vetted for the new age range, she added.

None of Mesa’s schools have certified school librarians, Bowen said. Instead, media centers are staffed with resource center specialists, a position created about six years ago when school librarian positions were cut, she added. Bowen was a school librarian in the school district at the time.

Now overseeing school libraries at the district level, Bowen said she agrees with the decision to remove the book from the junior high, as she believes the poems about boys, their bodies, and drugs may not be a good fit for seventh and eighth grade students.

“It’s a good book,” she told *Hotline*. “But it may be a little too much for middle school.”

People

Celeste Choate was named Executive Director of the Urbana Free Library, IL. She was previously Associate Director of the Ann Arbor District Library, MI.

Rick Meyer was appointed City Librarian of Decatur Public Library, IL, effective in April. He is currently Director of the Robey Memorial Library, Waukon, IA.

Barbara Ormerod-Glynn was promoted to Director of Greenwich Library, CT, following the resignation of Carol Mahoney. She was previously the library’s Deputy Director.

Scott Piepenburg was named Associate Professor of Library Science and Head of Cataloging and Metadata Services at the

Odum Library, Valdosta State University, GA. He was previously Cataloging Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.

Maria Stanton was appointed Director of Production at the American Theological Library Association. She was previously Vice President of Digital Content Production at Alexander Street Press.

Michol Tuttle was named Director of Galway Public Library, NY. She was previously a part-time Adult Services Librarian at the Town of Ballston Community Library, Burnt Hills, NY.

Dane Ward was appointed Dean of the Milner Library, Illinois State University, Normal. He had served as Interim Dean since July 2012.

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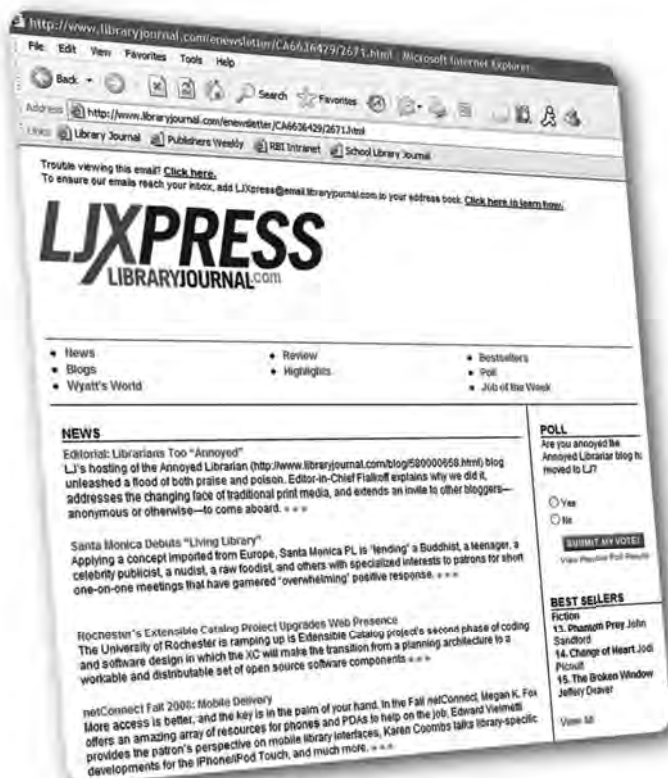
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