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## Black Women's Quilting Project

February-March, 2007

The interior exhibit cases of the Ursula C. Schwerin Library are now displaying *Black Women's Quilting Project*. The genesis for this project evolved in the African American Studies Department's *Black Women in Literature* course (AF250), taught by Professor Marta Effinger-Crichlow.

During the fall 2006 semester, students in *Black Women in Literature* focused on women's narratives for their final presentations. Each Student selected a woman of African descent with roots in America, the Caribbean, Canada and/or Africa. Each student designed questions and interviewed a family member, neighbor, friend, co-worker, or public figure about a particular aspect of her life. Following the interview(s), each student created a quilt based on the woman's story.

In preparation for this quilting project, students examined Alice Walker's short story "Everyday Use" and the Public Broadcasting System's documentary *The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend*. The students learned that the women in the short story and documentary used the materials readily available to them to keep warm and to tell their stories. Students used a wide array of materials including fabric, paper, plastic, dried food, glitter, and paint. The quilts represent the diverse narratives of women living inside and outside of New York City.

In addition, during the month of February 2007, the showcase outside the Library has on display an exhibit celebrating music and dance forms in the Africana world. This exhibition offers viewers a sample of the rich traditions of African American music and dance. Musicians and singers have helped to develop folk, classical,

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juju, highlife, reggae, calypso, gospel, the blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, funk, rock and roll, and rap. The musical instruments on view show how Africana people have tapped into the land to create complex sounds for centuries. The African American Studies Department challenges the viewer of this display to delve into the various music and dance forms, and asks the following question: How have the instruments, musicians and dancers shown in the exhibit contributed to the understanding of the Africana world?



These exhibitions are part of City Tech's celebration of Black History Month 2007.

**Library Hours:**

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

Friday, 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Library is closed on February 12 and 19.**

New York City College of Technology

Ursula C. Schwerin Library

300 Jay Street (at Tillary)

Atrium (fourth floor)

Downtown Brooklyn



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