

ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



Update from the Desk of the Library Director: Transforming the Elihu Burritt Library

By Carl Antonucci, Jr.

Walking through the library over this semester, I notice the many changes that have occurred since I arrived in August, 2010. Burritt Library has gone through a remarkable transformation. This is the result of collaborating with such an innovative staff.

Together, we have worked to ensure that the library satisfies the 21st-century needs of its community by facilitating knowledge creation, inspiring intellectual curiosity and lifelong learning. We have challenged ourselves to meet the goals and objectives that we set in the Elihu Burritt Library Strategic Plan, 2012-2015. Now we are ready to draft a new strategic plan in order to continue our growth into a true information laboratory for knowledge discovery, creation, sharing, and curation. In this newsletter you will read about the many innovative events and initiatives provided by our staff — events held here that would have never taken place in the traditional libraries of the past.

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5 Minutes of My Favorite Book

By Renata Vickrey

The Elihu Burritt Library and the Friends of the Library promote services that the library provides to the campus and community. The first annual event, "5 Minutes of My Favorite Book", took place outside in the Student Center circle on September 8th, celebrating the wealth of reading experiences a great library can offer!

Reading, especially reading for pleasure, is vitally important. Fiction opens the doors of our imagination. It stimulates our curiosity and teaches us about the world. It brings us to places that we never been. We become more aware and understanding of difference. It makes us to want to read more.

Participants at the event on September 8 were administrators, professors and staff members who were asked to read a small passage from their favorite books. Their choices varied from children's books to political biographies.

The master of ceremonies for the event was Professor Gil Gigliotti, President of

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Please send any comments or suggestions to
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When librarian and archivist Renata Vickrey says "5 Minutes," she means it — approximately

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CENTRALSearch: New Year, New Look! *By Dana Hanford*

Some exciting changes are coming to CENTRALSearch in January 2017. The Library's main discovery portal will be getting a new look, some added functionality, and access to even more great physical resources.

Over the past year, librarians and staff throughout the CCSU system and the Connecticut State Library have been working to join forces and data in order to migrate together to a new shared library management system. Many cross-institutional teams were formed and are currently hard at work to ensure that the new system will deliver the best user experience possible to our patrons. The consolidated database will provide increased access to and delivery of physical resources at all the state universities, community colleges, and the Connecticut State Library.

CAUTION: Banned Books on the Premises! *By Alberto Cifuentes, Jr.*



Have you ever picked up a book in J.K. Rowling's wildly popular *Harry Potter* series? Have you ever seen Harper Lee's classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* on a required reading list for teens and young adults? Perhaps, like me, you were compelled to read J.D. Salinger's timeless masterpiece *The Catcher in the Rye* in your tenth grade English class. Believe it or not, all three of these books have been **banned** at several points in time in various towns and cities all over the United States.

Banned Books Week is an annual event celebrating our freedom to read without censorship. This week commemorates thousands of controversial works by acclaimed and celebrated writers and honors the public's need for free and open access of information. This year, Banned Books Week was observed from September 25 to October 1, and Elihu Burritt Library just had to get involved.

I set up a display of various books (e.g., *Gone with the Wind*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *Slaughterhouse-Five*) on the first floor of the library. These titles have been banned in the U.S. for reasons ranging from "graphic language" to "violence and sexual content." Yet, many of the works I selected for the display appeal to groups without a strong public voice, such as children and young adults. I hope the display conveyed the message that, as a society, we need to have a more thoughtful conversation about what it means to ban or censor library materials.

Thanks to the hard and tireless work of library staff, instructors, students, and community members, many of the banned works on display have remained accessible to the public and inspired critical dialogue on what it means to be human. For more information about Banned Books Week as well as lists of banned and challenged books throughout history, please visit the American Library Association (ALA) Banned Books Week webpage at <http://www.ala.org/bbooks/bannedbooksweek>.



"5 Minutes" continued from page 1



Prof. Gil Gigliotti, Master of Ceremonies

the Friends of the Library. The 5-minute requirement was gently enforced by the event coordinator Renata Vickrey, archivist and outreach librarian.

Some chose old-time classics. Provost Carl Lovitt read F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, and Dr. Matt Specter read from *The Magic Mountain* by Thomas Mann. Dr. Richard Bachoo read from *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville and librarian Kimberly Farrington read from *Persuasion* by Jane Austen.

Some fondly read well-loved stories from childhood. Prof. Mary Ann Mahony read the entire *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney and Richard C. Mullins,

ITBD Director, made sure to show the pictures as he read *The Biggest Bear* by Lynd Ward.

Some read the voices of other cultures and places. Interim President Dr. Susan Pease read *The Egyptian* by Mika Waltari, Dean Ken Colwell read *Journey to Ixtlan* by Carlos Castaneda, and Dr. Carl Antonucci read from *Son of Italy* by Pascal D'Angelo.

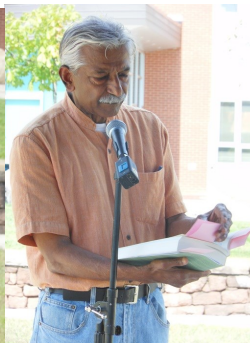
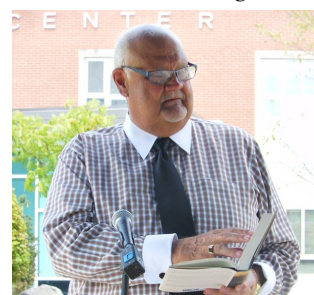
Prof. Matthew Ciscel read *Das Brot* in German by Wolfgang Borchert and Prof. Gil Gigliotti read Horace's *Carmina* I.V. in Latin, adding English translations.

Prof. Nanjundiah Sadanand and Prof. Evelyn Phillips chose books that aligned with their academic interests, the former reading from *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn and the latter reading from *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Paulo Freire. Greg Sneed, Chief of Police, read from *The Leadership Secrets of Colin Powell* by Oren Harari.

Contemporary novels were well-represented, too. President Jack Miller chose *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown and Prof. Stephen Cohen shared some of *Bleeding Edge* by Thomas Pynchon.

This event brought the campus together and highlighted the importance of reading. Readers proved that the type of book doesn't matter: it's the impact that counts. Next year, the Library will organize a similar event which will involve readings by students!

Clockwise: former President Jack Miller, Provost Carl Lovitt, Library Director Carl Antonucci, Jr., Interim President Susan Pease, Prof. Evelyn Phillips, Prof. Nanjundiah Sadanand, and librarian Kim Farrington



Better Know Your Support Staff: Kelly Moore *By Alberto Cifuentes, Jr.*

You may remember Access Services Student Worker Kelly Moore from my last article highlighting the whiteboard sketches she and fellow student worker, Guillermo Novo, create. Kelly will be graduating with her B.A. in music with a concentration in tuba once the semester is over, and she wants to become a librarian! I sat with her recently to talk about her future post-CCSU:



1. What is one of your most memorable experiences working at the Burritt Library?

Library Snapshot Day was my favorite event! I loved making all the "I love my library because..." signs and seeing the awesome pictures that people took. Some students really came out of their shells that day!

2. Why do you want to pursue a career in library science?

I read books in Lemony Snicket's *Series of Unfortunate Events* in middle school and always loved the librarian characters. They were the smartest, most helpful adults in the series. I wanted to be like that.

3. What would you like to do as a librarian in the future?

I would like to be a Children's/Young Adult librarian. I find children's and young adult literature a lot more genuine than adult lit. I also appreciate that there's more acceptance of the fantasy genre in many children's and young adult works. *Continued on page 5*

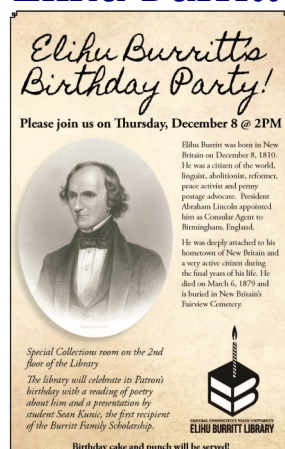
"Update From the Desk" continued from page 1

The American Library Association has started a new initiative called Libraries Transform:

"The Libraries Transform Campaign... is designed to increase public awareness of the value, impact and services provided by libraries and library professionals. The campaign will ensure there is one clear, energetic voice for our profession, showcasing the transformative nature of today's libraries and elevating the critical role libraries play in the digital age" (<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/about>).

One of the goals is to show that the 21st-century library is less about physical resources and more about innovative programming and community engagement. I encourage you to visit the Burritt Library, grab a Starbucks coffee, and talk to the staff about the changes at Burritt Library. You will be impressed by the way staff is adding value for patrons they serve in the five key areas (education, employment, entrepreneurship, empowerment and engagement) of the Libraries Transform initiative.

Elihu Burritt's Birthday Party!



Please join us on Thursday, December 8 @ 2PM in the Special Collections room on the 2nd floor of the library. The Library will celebrate its Patron's birthday with a reading of poetry about him and a presentation by the first recipient of the Burritt Family Scholarship.

Birthday cake and punch will be served!

Elihu Burritt was born in New Britain on December 8, 1810. He was a citizen of the world, linguist, abolitionist, reformer, peace activist and penny postage advocate. President Abraham Lincoln appointed him as Consular Agent to Birmingham, England.

Library Support for Textbook Affordability and OERs at CCSU

By Sharon Clapp

A team from the Elihu Burritt Library – Director Carl Antonucci, Jr., Instructional and Assessment Librarian Martha Kruey, and Digital Resources Librarian Sharon Clapp – is encouraging faculty at CCSU to base their courses on free (or nearly free) materials. These so-called "open educational resources" (OERs) are increasingly available online. OERs have been shown to improve student success rates, and are being adopted by many educational organizations, but only 25% of faculty in a recent nationwide survey reported awareness of them (<http://www.onlinelearningsurvey.com/oer.html>).

The library is participating in a Student Government Association- and Faculty Senate-led initiative on textbook affordability and OERs, which is organizing an OER workshop that will take place at the beginning of the Spring semester 2017 (dates to be posted on the library's blog and CCSU's events calendar). It is also launching a campaign for donors to underwrite the costs incurred by the library in order to put textbooks on reserve (see "Please Support..." on p. 6).

The library also received a small grant from the Center for Teaching & Faculty Development to create a Learning Community Group (LCG) to increase faculty awareness of OERs, and to help them find, evaluate, and deploy OERs in their courses. The LCG will take place in a "hybrid" style format, meeting several times during the Spring semester while providing supporting materials on Blackboard. This project will culminate in the selection of a course to convert to OERs. The group member who is selected to convert their course will receive a small stipend of \$300 as they expend the labor required for the conversion. More information on the LCG for faculty members is available at: <http://www.ccsu.edu/ctfd/learningCommunityGroups.html>

2016 Burritt Library Undergraduate Research Award Winners!

By Susan Slaga-Metivier

This year, the Elihu Burritt Library recognizes two bright students for excellence in library research and use of library resources: Heather Amberleigh MacIntyre and Rebecca R. Allinson.

MacIntyre, a Senior, wrote: "We All Need Somebody to Lean On: Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* as a Continuation of the Discussion Presented in Charles Chestnutt's 'The Wife of His Youth.'" She emphasized using the *JSTOR*, *EBSCOhost* and *MLA* databases. She also said "The more I searched, the more I discovered, and the deeper I was able to develop my thesis... [T]he ability to access information within CCSU is indispensable and extremely valuable to any research paper..."

Allinson, a Junior, wrote: "How Farmington, Connecticut Escaped the Servant Problem: Irish Domestic Service in a Small Town." She made strong use of databases as well, especially Ancestry and Hartford Courant Historical, and the library catalog. Because of the specificity and scarcity of materials available on her topic she made good use of the Reference librarians and the inter-library loan services available at Elihu Burritt Library.

"Better Know" continued from page 3

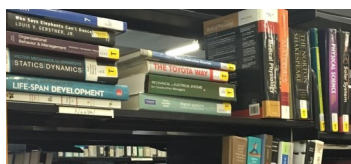
there's more acceptance of the fantasy genre in many children's and young adult works.

4. *How would you like to bring music and the arts into your role as a librarian?*

I would love to create a music lab, as I don't think enough libraries promote music, and an artistic book club so young people can draw their favorite scenes from books. Lastly, I would also create a book costuming lab so children and young adults can make their favorite costumes from beloved books.

Please Support the Elihu Burritt Library Textbook Fund

By Renata Vickrey



CCSU students frequently skip or defer a class because of course material costs, and many take a class without the required textbook. Some students face the decision between purchasing a textbook, paying rent, or buying groceries. A textbook for a single course might cost up to \$500.

The Elihu Burritt Library is committed to supporting the educational needs of students. By purchasing additional copies of required textbooks, the library hopes to relieve some of their financial burden. Textbooks will be kept on reserve at the library, accessible during library hours.

Your gift to the Burritt Library Textbook Fund helps not just one student, but an entire class! For more information or to make a donation go to: www.ccsu.edu/textbookfund, or contact Renata Vickrey directly at vickreyr@ccsu.edu

On social media: **#textbookbroke #textbookfund #BurrittLibrary #GivingTuesday**

We want to thank all donors to the Friends of the Library fund, and hope we can count again on your donations. Your generosity is key to the viability of this important service that the library provides.

Donors to the Friends of the Library from April 15 to November 15, 2016 – we thank you!

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Paul J. Falcone	1967	LisaAnn Paiva	2000	Roger T. Zieger	1969
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