

ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



Update from the Desk of the Library Director: EXCITE Transformation for Libraries

By Dr. Carl Antonucci, Jr.

I am excited to report that the CCSU Elihu Burritt Library Team has been selected to participate in the EXCITE Transformation for Libraries Cohort 1. This program is "an intensive team-based experiential learning program that will teach collaboration and innovation skills, result in programs and services that respond to community input and demonstrated needs, lead to cultural change at libraries, and sustain project impact through extended training." This is made possible by an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant that was awarded to the Connecticut State Library. The Connecticut State Library invited libraries to apply to be part of a cohort that



The EXCITE team, L to R: Dr. Carl Antonucci, Susan Slaga-Metivier, Martha Kruey, Kristin D'Amato, and Kristina Edwards

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Please send any comments or suggestions to
bmcguckin@ccsu.edu

Opening Reception for Elihu Burritt's Cross-Culture Courage Exhibit

By Briana McGuckin

On November 17th, Elihu Burritt Library hosted "Cross-Culture Courage: Connecticut's Response to WWI" in partnership with the CCSU Veterans History Project. This event served as the opening reception for Elihu Burritt's current exhibit, provided in association with the Connecticut Military Support Program, displaying uniforms, weapons, letters, and more in acknowledging the 100th anniversary of World War I.

President Zulma Toro gave opening remarks, while Eileen Hurst (Director of the Veterans History Project at CCSU) introduced the experts presenting over the course of the evening. Library Director Dr. Carl Antonucci and Kenneth DiMaggio covered the war effort from the Italian perspective, presenting "To Fight for Italy, to Fight for America: For Italians in Connecticut, it was a Fight for Liberty." This explored Italy's need for Italian soldiers from the U.S., while the soldiers themselves were inclined to stay and fight stateside. Continued on page 4



Exhibit artifacts provided in association with the Connecticut Military Support Program

Eccellenze d'Italia Gives CCSU Community the "Best of Italy!"

By Renata Vickrey



L to R: Dr. Carmela Pesca, Dr. Maria Passaro, Dr. Carl Antonucci, Jr., and archivist Renata Vickrey

On October 12, 2017 the Welte Auditorium was filled with all things Italian: the rhythms of the Italian language, historical exhibits, music, cuisine, fashion, and design. Under the direction of Dr. Maria Passaro and Dr. Carl Antonucci, this day celebrating the "Best of Italy" was a successful joint collaboration between the Elihu Burritt Library, the Italian Resource Center (IRC) and the Modern Language department.

The celebration started with classical music outside of Welte, thanks to WFCS station, and a display of iconic Italian cars (Maserati, Alfa Romeo and Fiat), courtesy of Valenti Maserati.

In their opening remarks, Dr. Passaro and Dr. Carmela Pesca underlined the importance of Italian language courses, the educational resources in the Italian Resource Center, and the Italian history and culture program at CCSU. A special guest from the Italian Consulate in New York, Dr. Anna Valeria Guazzieri, Director of Education, emphasized the importance of staying connected to Italian family history and culture, explaining how knowledge of Italian language helps in doing this.



Left: Dr. Carmela Pesca
Right: Mr. Richard Balducci



Representative Joseph Serra

Connecticut State Representative Joseph Serra shared his story of Sicilian heritage. Mr. Serra is a member of the Connecticut Italian Political Caucus, which

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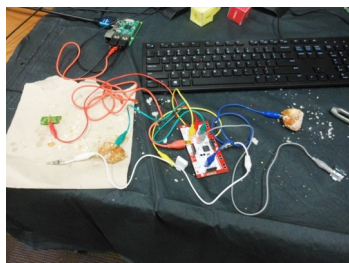
"Update from the Desk of the Library Director," continued from page 1

includes 9 all-day training sessions. CCSU's Elihu Burritt Library was accepted alongside Charles County Public Library in La Plata, Maryland; Hall Memorial Library in Ellington, Connecticut; North Carolina State Library, in Raleigh, North Carolina; Ossining Public Library, in Ossining, New York; and Springfield City Library in Springfield, Massachusetts. The training sessions will start in January 2018 and the project implementation at the library will take place from May - November 2018. A final report is due on December 28, 2018.

As part of the application, the team had to submit a five minute video exploring how they hoped to transform their library as a result of the training. I would like to thank Ryan Wark from the CCSU Media Center for his help in producing the video. The team was notified that they were selected on November 15, 2017. Because the team was selected the cost of \$4,400 dollars per person for the training will be waived and the team is also eligible for \$2,000 in travel support and up to \$3,000 to enact a new program or service that will be developed through this training.

The team members are: Carl Antonucci, Kristina Edwards, Kristin D'Amato, Susan Slaga-Metivier and Martha Kruey. I am looking forward to this training and working with our team to continue to transform the Elihu Burritt Library. The training we receive will assist us to continue to provide new and innovative programs to our campus community and the community of New Britain.

Munchkins as Mice at Annual Trick-or-Treat Event *By Sharon Clapp*



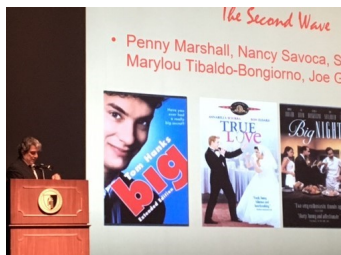
It was a bit of a mess, but it was popular!

Every year at Elihu Burritt's Trick-or-Treat e-resources event, students have a chance to learn about research databases and other resources provided by the library. This Halloween, the Information Systems & Resources (ISAR) department included a station that allowed students to turn donut holes into computer "mice."

The "Makey Makey" kit simply opens and closes circuits but, plugged into the Raspberry Pi (a \$35 open-source computer), it allowed students to turn unusual materials - like food - into computer inputs, pressing on a donut hole for arrow key and "mouse-click" commands. What does this have to do with library services? It's a reminder that we need to build our digital/electronic literacy to better understand our world today. More importantly, it shows that the library is the perfect space in which to explore our world (and to have a little fun).

"Best of Italy," continued from page 2

has been a generous supporter to Central Connecticut State University for decades. This support helps students in their quest to learn more about Italian history, language and culture. During the event Representative Serra and Mr. Richard Balducci, both from the Italian Political Caucus, presented the CCSU Foundation with another generous and thoughtful donation.



Dr. Anthony Tamburri presenting on Italians in American media

Dr. Anthony Tamburri, Dean of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College CUNY, spoke to the audience about the history of Italian Americans in the American media.

Musical performances included the Bass Clef Choir from the St. Patrick and St. Anthony church in Hartford. Student performances included those by Cecilia Gigliotti who was accompanied by Martin Smith on the piano, Olivia Carlson and CarliAnne Lanou who performed traditional dances, Xhulia Lumi who played guitar, and Charles De Weese who read from his poetry. Gabrielle Ciotto, a student who participated in the CCSU Summer Institute in Florence, shared her experience with the audience.

The event was accompanied by an exhibit, "A Pictorial History of Italian Immigration to Connecticut," curated by Mr. Paul Pirotta. The evening closed with an Italian American play, *The Last Romance*, by Joe DiPietro

The event would not have been nearly complete without Italian coffee, pastries, and other dishes. Thank you to Starbucks and Mozzicato Bakery for their donations!

The Elihu Burritt Library and the Italian Resource Center at CCSU have extensive holdings of materials that promote and support the teaching of Italian history and language at the university. These materials can be found on the library website at: <http://web.ccsu.edu/italian/>
It is possible for any Connecticut resident to gain access to these wonderful resources.



Liaison Program Opens Channel Between Library and Faculty

By Kristina Edwards

A main focus for the Burritt Library is to keep the lines of communication open between librarians and faculty, to provide the best library services to support CCSU's research and curriculum needs. The Library Liaison Program pursues this goal. Each department selects a faculty representative to gather and share information about the library with colleagues. This representative also submits requests for materials to the library. Each department is assigned a librarian who can guide faculty in submitting these requests. This librarian is a good contact for faculty if they are unsure of whom to ask concerning the library or library services.

Over the years the collaboration between Library liaisons and librarians has evolved, from streamlining the process of requesting new materials to getting colleagues the answers they need about library services, and ensuring that our collections fully support the needs of academic departments. Librarians also use the relationship to share information with liaisons about library services and upcoming library events.

As the university begins strategic planning, the library director and library staff are working together with the Library Advisory Committee to look at the relationship between library liaisons and the library, to ensure that this partnership reflects the needs of both the library and faculty. The departmental library liaisons are invaluable to the Burritt Library during this time of growth.

To see the list of current Library liaisons and the corresponding librarian assigned to work with them, follow this link: <https://libguides.ccsu.edu/about/liaisons>

"Opening Reception," continued from page 1

Next Dr. M.B. Biskupski partnered with archivist Renata Vickrey to compare the experience of those in the Polish service to that of American forces, and how this affected Polish enlistment, presenting "Polish Americans in Connecticut in World War I."

Kristine Pittsley, Project Director of Remembering World War One, was the final speaker of the evening. She shared information about Connecticut's involvement in the war industrially (our factories producing guns, knives, hats, and more), and personally (pointing out that the age range of Connecticut soldiers was 13 to 104 years old). She drew special attention to the 1919 *Military Service Record Questionnaire*, which collected responses from soldiers to such illuminating and historically-important questions as "What impressions did combat make upon you?" Such data is valuable for prospective research.

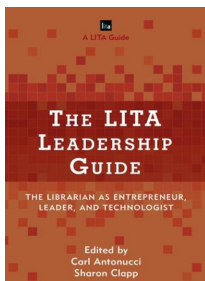


Once the formal presentations ended, attendees browsed the exhibit while enjoying a hearty meal.



LITA Leadership Guide Talks “Triple-Threat” Librarians

By Sharon Clapp



Antonucci, Carl,
and Sharon
Clapp, eds.
2017. *The LITA
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Guide : The
Librarian As
Entrepreneur,
Leader, and
Technologist.
Library
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Association
(LITA) Guides.*
Lanham:

Joining fellow New England librarians in Burlington, Vermont for the October 22-24 New England Library Association (NELA) Conference, Digital Resources Librarian Sharon Clapp spoke to a small but packed room on Monday morning about the work that she and Library Director, Dr. Carl Antonucci, did co-editing their recently released book *The LITA Leadership Guide: The Librarian as Entrepreneur, Leader, and Technologist* (Rowman & Littlefield: 2017).

Ms. Clapp and Dr. Antonucci presented on their book at the LITA Heads of Library Technology Roundtable during the ALA Midwinter Conference in January, and spoke about it for the *Central Authors* program, filmed for CCSU TV on November 1.

ALA President Maureen Sullivan also attended the NELA session, and briefly spoke, noting that all librarians - no matter where they may fit into their organization - have the capacity to lead and should take every opportunity to develop that capacity.

In her presentation, Ms. Clapp summarized the key themes and highlighted important points from the work of contributing authors. The guide was edited to include several chapters on each of the themes: leadership, entrepreneurship, and technology in libraries. Chapter authors provided a variety of important perspectives, the most common of which focused on how academia and its libraries are being transformed by technological change.

Ms. Clapp outlined some of the case studies and research cited in the book, including a project that piloted roving reference services (when librarians leave the service desk to meet patrons at their point of need) and a chapter that summarized many open source software packages developed for libraries. Other chapters focus on the organization of libraries, the role of the information technologists in the organization, the arrangement of space for maximum innovation, and building entrepreneurial culture within the library.

Ms. Clapp explained that the book arose from panel presentations that she had put together on mid-career librarianship. In those presentations, particularly one that she coordinated for the LITA National Forum in Fall 2014, the three themes of leadership, entrepreneurship, and technology had emerged. A Rowman & Littlefield editor then solicited the panelists, including Dr. Antonucci and Ms. Clapp, to turn their work into a *LITA Guide*.

This led to a publication process that took over a year. It began with the book proposal and contract, continued through the call for chapters, ongoing communication and coordination with the selected authors, editing the contributions, soliciting and writing introductory material, and finalizing the manuscript with the required formatting, styles, and indexing.

Published in May 2017, the book has already been purchased by over 60 libraries and has received positive reviews in professional journals.

Time for the 2018 Elihu Burritt Research Awards!

By Susan Slaga-Metivier

The Elihu Library Research Awards recognize excellence in undergraduate and graduate research papers and projects*, as well as skill and creativity in the application of library services, resources and collections. A prize of \$350 will be awarded to an undergraduate and graduate student during the 2018 spring semester at the University Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD).

*Please note that for graduate students, this applies to class assignments and not the final program thesis/project.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be enrolled during the spring 2018 semester as a Central Connecticut State University student at any class level or discipline/major.
- Have completed their research paper or project for a credit course during the spring, summer, or fall semesters in 2017.
- Consent to the paper or project and application materials being publicly displayed in the library's online collections.

For more information please go to: <https://library.ccsu.edu/services/award/application.php> or contact Susan Slaga-Metivier at slagas@ccsu.edu. Application packets are due on February 26, 2018.

Stephen Arel Wins Burritt Family Scholarship!

By Renata Vickrey

The Elihu Burritt Family Scholarship was established by descendants of Elihu Burritt, Susan C. Bradley, Martha C. Cargil, David C. Skinner and Sherrod E. Skinner in 2012. This scholarship is for full-time, matriculated, undergraduate student who is engaged in academic assignments requiring the use of Elihu Burritt Library resources and, in particular, the Elihu Burritt Collection and can demonstrate how Elihu Burritt is central to the academic assignment.

Stephen Arel, a History major, is this year Elihu Burritt Scholarship recipient! Stephen writes:



"Thank you so much for this scholarship! I really appreciate all the support both financially and emotionally that the Staff at CCSU has provided for me. This award means a lot to me and it is an honor to be recognized for it. I have spent many hours at the Elihu Burritt Library, and it is because of the abundant resources provided there that I have had the opportunity to write about such a key figure of both local history and United States History. Again I thank the generous donors who will allow me to pursue my education to its fullest extent."



Stephen Arel (2nd from right) with parents (left) and archivist Renata Vickrey

The Burritt Family Scholarship is made possible by our generous donors.

Thank You! We Love Our Donors!

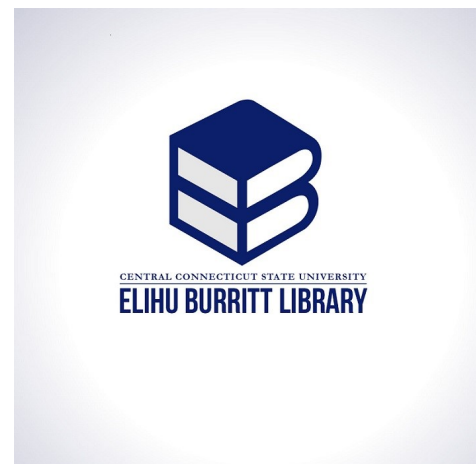
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We are proud to purchase additional textbooks for our collection, assisting our students as they pursue graduation. If you are considering an end-of-the-year donation please support our special Textbook Fund. For more information or to make a donation go to: www.ccsu.edu/textbookfund, or contact Renata Vickrey directly at vickreyr@ccsu.edu

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