Elihu Burritt Library Newsletter

Jeanne Sohn and Frances Nadeau Retire From CCSU; Library Staff Honored for Years of Service
by Kathy Steadman

The Burritt Library staff would like to congratulate Jeanne Sohn, Director of Library Services, and Frances Nadeau, Head of the Curriculum Laboratory, on their retirement this spring. Their contributions to the library will be missed.

Jeanne Sohn began her directorship of the Burritt Library in the summer of 1989. As library director, she has led the Burritt Library into the 21st century. According to Sohn CCSU has been a very special place and she is fortunate to have a fantastic job full of variety. She expressed satisfaction to have worked with wonderful people whose dedication to their profession has been honest and sincere.

Jeanne Sohn, Director of Library Services, will retire this spring

One of her first assignments as director was to assist in acquiring a new online system that would support all four CSU campus libraries. That system, known as CONSULS, has been in use for the last 15 years. CONSULS is still going strong, as is the cooperation between the four libraries. As Jeanne looks forward to her retirement, she will think of Central often, remembering the good years worked here.

Frances Nadeau, Head of the Curriculum Laboratory, will retire at the end of June

Frances Nadeau began working in the library in 1991. Nadeau states that she is very proud to have followed in the footsteps of two colleagues whom she admired. Barbara Gibson, who designed the facility of the Curriculum Laboratory, and Donna Ostrander, former head of the Curriculum

Burritt Library Announces 2008 Undergraduate Research Award Winners

On April 4, 2008, Susan Slaga, Reference Librarian, presented Amanda Johnson and Jean Messersmith with the second annual Elihu Burritt Undergraduate Research Awards. Their papers demonstrated excellence in undergraduate research as well as skills and creativity in the application of library services.

Amanda Johnson, a senior and Elementary Education/English major, won the award for her honors

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Smoothies and Searching Event is a Success

On April 15th, the popular, semi-annual *Smoothies and Searching* event was held at Jazzman's Café, located on the Burritt Library's Main Level. The approximately 85 students who attended were treated to delicious smoothie samples and cookies courtesy of Jazzman's. The event also gave students an opportunity to seek help with research for final papers and projects. "We hope it makes students more comfortable coming to library when they have research questions," stated Susan Slaga, Reference Librarian and event coordinator.

In this issue:

Vidcasting Instruction Helps English Students Learn Valuable Research Skills

During the 2008 spring semester, Librarians Debbie Herman and Susan Slaga worked with two sections of Dr. Aimee Pozorski's World Literature II course (English 204) on a very successful podcast/vidcasting pilot project. The project's aim was to improve academic success and to equip students with the research skills necessary to complete college-level literature assignments. "We wanted to try a new approach to library instruction that would be more appealing to the students and enable us to teach library research skills over the course of several weeks. This approach was a welcome change for students who would otherwise learn the material in a single class period, which can be overwhelming," said Herman.

Students subscribed to the world literature podcast through iTunes and viewed one or two new episodes each week. The podcast featured a variety of media formats including audio, video, and "enhanced" podcast (audio with accompanying still images). The first podcast episode presented a tour of the library, and subsequent ones introduced students to resources available through the library's website, searching the CONSULS library catalog and literature databases, and evaluating websites. To reinforce the concepts and skills presented, Dr. Pozorski gave her students short assignments on Vista during the eight-week period of the project; examples of these assignments include identifying and locating relevant peer-reviewed articles and determining the differences between scholarly and non-scholarly websites. Most of the students listened to the podcasts on their own computers or video iPods. However, two iPods and several computers were available in the library for the students to use.

The episodes were recorded and edited over winter break. Jordan Desire, a communication major, filmed and edited the video segments. Matthew Wildman, a computer science major, recorded and edited the library tour and also starred in a couple of the videos. "I enjoyed working on the project and I never knew the library had so much to offer," said Wildman.

To assess the learning outcomes of this new approach to library research instruction, the students completed a pre- and post-test. "We were very pleased with the results," said Slaga. "The students' scores improved dramatically on the post-test and they needed less assistance when they came to the library to search for literary articles and criticism."

Most of the students stated they liked the podcasts since they were informative, short in length, and could be viewed and replayed anytime if needed. Herman and Slaga will provide podcast instruction again for Pozorski's English 110 course affiliated with a Learning Community in the fall. "Based on the experience gained from the pilot, we plan to make some changes and enhancements to the videos as well as add some interactive components to the screencasts," Herman stated.

Pozorski has been thrilled with adding this technological component to her classes. "I'm not really a techie, so the students and I got to learn more about what the use of podcast instruction entails. Despite the few technical difficulties in the beginning, the podcast worked out really well. I was especially pleased to see how students' attitudes toward library instruction changed over the course of a single semester. I'm looking forward to doing it again in the fall," she added.

Turnitin Pilot Study Helps Combat Plagiarism
by Emily Chasse

In 2000, the Faculty Senate formed an ad hoc committee on Academic Integrity. It passed an Academic Misconduct policy, which was revised and signed by President Richard Judd in October of 2001. Over the last several years, this committee has offered workshops and programs for faculty about academic integrity and plagiarism. I have served on this committee since its inception.

Members of the CCSU faculty often call upon Burritt Library's Reference Department for help in locating possible plagiarized material. In addition, a survey completed by Liz O'Neill, a faculty member in the Physical Education & Human Performance Department, found that a majority of CCSU faculty would be in favor of CCSU subscribing to an online plagiarism detection system such as Turnitin.

In March 2008, Jerry Kennedy, the CCSU Turnitin representative, responded to a request for information (RFI) on a Turnitin subscription. Jerry suggested a pilot study for this spring. Provost Carl Lovitt registered CCSU in the pilot study and made Chasse the account administrator. CCSU has trial access to the service through the end of August 2008, which may be extended through the fall semester depending upon the level of interest.

CCSU faculty received information about the Turnitin service via the campus listservs and email announcements. Faculty were also encouraged visit the TurnItIn website at http://turnitin.com and view the videos available. Turnitin has also offered several webcasts about its use to interested CCSU faculty.

The Academic Integrity Committee reconvened on April 1, 2008 and discussed the faculty response to Turnitin. Those who took advantage of the trial were pleased with the results. As of April 17th, twenty-three faculty members have registered for Turnitin and it seems most have registered recently. Our Turnitin representative reported that fifty-nine papers have

Cat Kong vs. Googzilla:
Assessing the Impact of Social Computing on Libraries

"Becoming engaged in the social Web is not about learning new services or mastering new technologies," according to a new OCLC report, "Sharing, Privacy and Trust in Our Networked World", which assessed college students' use of social networks. Its authors conclude that modern libraries should be "dismantling the current structures and inviting users in to create their content and establish new rules." Text of the report is available from the following URL: http://www.oclc.org/reports/sharing/default.htm. As we librarians engage in intense deliberation, reflection, and debate on social computing and its effects on the core values of librarianship, two of our Burritt Librarians, Steven Bernstein and Edward Iglesias, weigh in.

SB: Personally, I would love if we started "dismantling the current structures and inviting users in to create their content and establish new rules." While we're at it, we should advocate that airline pilots, doctors, engineers, etc. do the same thing for their professions. It is, after all, the God-given right of every individual without professional training to fly an airplane full of passengers, to perform his or her own triple bypass surgery, or to design a nuclear power plant. Granted, these are extreme examples, but the core of the issue is that we as librarians possess professional and ethical training in the area of collecting, organizing, preserving, and providing access to the ever-expanding record of human thought and creativity.

The question comes down to this: To what extent should we be promoting a do-it-yourself (DIY)

Ciao Italia!
by Dana Tonkonow

A little piece of Italy is located here in the Burritt Library on the third floor, room 306. The **Italian Resource Center**, under the sponsorship of the Consulate General of Italy (New York City), the Connecticut State Department of Education, the Italian American Committee on Education, and Central Connecticut State University, opened its doors in 1999 and has been growing ever since.

Under the direction of Carmela Pesca, CCSU Professor of Italian, and assistant Giuliana O'Connell, the Center is a lively hub of activities and materials relating to the teaching of the Italian language and culture. The Center responds to queries and requests not only from CCSU patrons, but from information seekers across the United States and from Europe as well. Instructional textbooks for all levels, novels, pictorial works, language readers, comic books, teaching aids and movies (VHS tape and DVD) are a small sampling of the variety of materials available for browsing and checking out. The Center also sponsors cultural events, movie presentations, and teacher workshops. On April 26th the Center co-sponsored the conference *Languages in*

The Italian Resource Center is located on the 3rd Floor of the Burritt Library

the Community: Connecting the Language Classroom to the Multilingual Reality held at CCSU. Language instructors from across the state presented lectures and workshops that addressed the incorporation of such everyday elements as mass media and ethnic cuisine, for example, to enhance language instruction.

The Center's hours for the 2008 spring semester are Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30am-4:30pm, Wednesdays 5:00pm-8:00pm, and by appointment.

For more information about the **Italian Resource Center** visit their web site at :
http://www.ccsu.edu/Italian/

True Colors Reception Held
by Frank Gagliardi

A reception was recently held at the Burritt Library marking the 15th anniversary of True Colors and to honor the founder and current Executive Director, Robin Passariello McHaelen.

True Colors strives to create a world where youth, adults and families of all sexual orientations or gender identities are valued and affirmed. Jamie Bassell and Kyle O'Toole, University of Connecticut student interns with the organization, set up an exhibit about the organization using materials from the library's Gender Equity collection of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender materials. Ms. Bassell and Mr. O'Toole created a PowerPoint presentation which was shown at the reception and will be added to the organization's website (*http://www.ourtruecolors.org/*). Robin McHaelen was recently selected by the National Education Association (NEA) to receive the 2008 Virginia Uribe Award for creative leadership in Human Rights in recognition of her efforts on behalf of those lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex youth.

Gifts and the Burritt Library
by William Shakalis

Gifts play an important role in the academic library. Donated materials can include anything from books, serials, DVDs, CDs, videos, and realia. For the Burritt Library, book and assorted material donations play an ongoing and useful role in building the library collection.

As a former University Assistant under the direction of the Collection Development Librarian, Lynn Johnson-Corcoran, I handled the weekly intake and processing of gifts from various sources. Gifts primarily have been English language but we accept materials in several languages, and in various subject disciplines, from a variety of sources. For example, we receive donations from current and emeritus faculty, library staff, alumni and community members, and even the Lost and Found in Circulation or the Student Center.

The Role of Gifts in a Library

Donations can benefit a library by expanding its holdings in certain academic disciplines (especially if a donor has specialized in a subject area), providing replacement copies, filling gaps in current holdings, or providing out-of-print editions or other editions of value. Our success in procuring outstanding donated collections is the direct result of relationships developed with subject specialists (some through library liaisons or department professors) and attentiveness to donation possibilities in the wider academic community.

We accept donations according to how well they fit with key criteria of the library's gift policy. The policy states, "Donated materials are evaluated on their usefulness to the collection in terms of supporting the curriculum and, especially in the areas of health and science, of currency. The Library reserves the right to add, send to a sister institution, sell at a book sale, or discard donated materials. Textbooks are not normally added to the collection."

Donations Make a Difference

In recent years, we have received large donations from retired professors at CCSU and other universities. Donations have been in computer science, history, literature, earth science, religion, travel, maps and atlases, and classical music CDs, to name just a few. One former professor of literature, whose private collection numbered 50,000 items, donated several thousand books to the Burritt Library over a period of a few years. Another collection, the estate of a University of Hartford Professor of European history, added 1,400 items, mainly in Central, Eastern European, and American history. The staff of an ethnic archives located in Connecticut discovered we were missing volume 4 of a 6-volume ethnic encyclopedia and donated the missing volume. Finally, ongoing donors have given thousands of books, journals, directories, and ephemera of material about the GLBT community, which help to expand our significant holdings in various areas of educational and gender equity.

For the past three years we have averaged about 8,000 gifts received per year. Books usually represent slightly more than 50% of each year's total. However, only a small percentage of total items received are added to the library collection. The most valued donations are very current or classic works that support the educational mission of the university. As a result, over a thousand books each year are put into the Book Sale, where students and other library patrons can purchase hard-covers at $1.00 each and paperbacks at $.50. Given the academic quality or popular currency of many of these titles that is a bargain indeed!

Making a Donation

When considering a donation of books or other materials for the Library, please ask the following questions: "Is it of academic quality?" "Will it support ongoing teaching activities in a subject discipline at Central?" "How current is the material?" "Is it in good condition?" Remember that only

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Lab, who established the collection. Frances has maintained the viability of this educational resource and has promoted the materials to the faculty in the School of Education and Professional Studies. Nadeau said that she receives the most gratification in helping students find materials that they can use for their projects and credits Donna Wallach's initiative and imagination in creating a more inviting space.

This year also marks the 30th and 20th year anniversaries for some of our faculty and staff. Librarians Lynn Johnson-Corcoran, Barbara Meagher, and Priya Rai are celebrating 30 years of service to CCSU. Reserve Room Supervisor Heidi Kropf is celebrating her 20th year of service to CCSU.

Congratulations to all!

2008 Research Awards

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thesis "Reading Instruction and Political Agendas." "The process of researching and writing my thesis was a personally rewarding one," according to Johnson. "As a future elementary school teacher, the current state of national education is of utmost concern to me." With high-stakes testing and accountability becoming increasingly crucial for funding, I thought it was important to understand exactly how and why these laws were put into place."

Johnson used a variety of library resources such as books and articles from the JSTOR electronic journal archive as well as university personnel and course resources to conduct her research. "All the resources were important in making my thesis something I am truly proud of," said Johnson.

Jean Messersmith, a senior History major, wrote the paper "The Good American Citizen: Americanization during the World War I Era, " which examined the role of adult education courses as

Pictured from left to right: Susan Slaga with award recipients Amanda Johnson and Jean Messersmith

a means to inculcate citizenship to the immigrant population. For her research Jean used several Burritt Library resources such as primary documents from the Hartford School District, books, and articles from JSTOR and published in the journal, *Immigrants in America Review*. "I found the staff members at the Elihu Burritt Library, with their extensive knowledge of library source materials, to be extremely helpful in assisting with my research efforts," stated Messersmith.

The 2009 Elihu Burritt Library Research Awards will be presented next spring at URCAD. More information will be forthcoming. If you have questions, contact Susan Slaga at slagas@ccsu.edu or ext. 2-2095.

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been turned in for review as of April 20, 2008. The Academic Integrity Committee hopes that more faculty will join the pilot study and evaluate Turnitin in the coming months. Please contact Emily Chasse (chasse@ccsu.edu) if you have any questions.

Gifts
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the most current textbooks are wanted, and, as more societies and academic publishers move to publishing journals online, we will be less inclined to add paper copies of journals to our collections.

To make any sizeable donation, please call Lynn Johnson-Corcoran at (860) 832-2059.

Cat Kong vs. Googzilla
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attitude towards our profession among the information neophytes? As any DIY-er knows, there are some endeavors that the average person is perfectly capable of doing herself and there are also some projects for which a professional is required. Not knowing the difference between the two can lead to heavy losses of time, money, or even self (or others!). Encouraging average Joes to perform the duties we have been trained to do blurs this line and is dangerous.

EI: You made an interesting point but with a flawed analogy perhaps. Publishing at one time was the province of professional typesetters and printers. When desktop publishing came around nearly anyone could create a sign for a yard sale or lost dog. At one time you needed a degree in Electrical Engineering to work on a computer. These are technologies that became distributed as they became easier to use. In the case of librarians and libraries, we are already mostly redundant. Sure we have great resources, but for most of the people most of the time there is no need to wander into a library. We face a choice of relinquishing our cathedrals and turning them into bazaars to use Eric Raymond's term (see: http://tinyurl.com/yr34ac).

Personally I don't think we have that much to fear. Technologies are constantly changing as are standards. As long as that is true the average user will need someone to help them navigate the maze to useful information. The question then becomes whether we place roadblocks in their way. We as librarians are obligated to meet users where they are. This has always been the case whether the barrier was income or language or distance. If our library users are on Facebook, that is where they will look for us. If they can create folksonomies that make sense to them, then why not? It is still too early to tell but certain experiments show that social tagging can be more effective than rigid categorization. After all, our subject headings don't always make a lot of sense. If I think that a biography of Winston Churchill should be tagged with "biography" rather than "World War, 1939-1945", then why not? If I can search the catalog and add a tag "cigar_smokin_british_dude" that makes sense to me, then why not? After all, this doesn't take away the other descriptors but it does add another method for information discovery.

SB: Publishing is *still* the province of professional typesetters and printers. The fact that publishers such as Gale, Simon & Schuster, and Prentice Hall thrive in this day and age attests to this fact. Desktop publishing technology was never meant as a replacement for professional publishing. It was meant to enhance the production of casual publications like signs for a yard sale or a lost dog (to use your examples). Similarly, the fact that personal computers are ubiquitous when it comes to their casual use does not negate the need for electrical engineers to maintain and develop computer technology for us. Quite the contrary-- it makes them that much more essential. The flaw with your analogies is that you fail to see the difference between professional activity and casual activity. I can play baseball, but the Red Sox are not going to call on me when they need to win a game. They're going to call on someone like Kevin Youkilis, a professional who has training and skill. That I am not a professional does not make my ball playing any less valid, it just makes me less effective at it. For Kevin Youkilis and for me, it's a whole different ballgame. The same is true with information description and access. Tagging is great for casual use but it cannot replace a professional's application of a tried and true system. And don't deceive yourself into thinking that this article proposes that the two can co-exist when (in plain English) it states that we should be "***dismantling the current structures*** and inviting users in to create their content and establish new rules." When you come to understand that there is a difference between what information professionals and a non-professionals can do, you will understand that librarians and libraries are not redundant. Librarians and libraries are not redundant (okay, so maybe this librarian is).

2009 Elihu Burritt Library Undergraduate Research Award

Elihu Burritt Library is pleased to announce the 2009 Undergraduate Library Research award. This award will recognize the excellence in undergraduate research papers/projects and the skills and creativity in the application of library services, resources and collections. Two prizes of $350 will be awarded in spring 2009 at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD). One will be awarded to a senior for his or her thesis and the other will be awarded any undergraduate for a research paper or project.

To be eligible, applicants must:

⇒ **Be enrolled during the spring 2009 semester as a Central Connecticut State University undergraduate 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 2008.**
⇒ **Agree that the paper or project and application materials will become property of Elihu Burritt Library and may be publicly displayed in the library and/or library website.**

For more information and an application please visit: http://library.ccsu.edu/about/award/. Application packets will be due by February 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Slaga, Reference Librarian, at slagas@ccsu.edu or 860-832-2095.