

ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Finals Paws

A therapy dogs program for CCSU students

For a long time, students have come to the library to do research, get help from a librarian, work on a group project, or study. Students always need to study and work on papers, especially as the end of the semester approaches and it is finals time.

Many students are more stressed at finals time, especially if they have the responsibility of work and families also. During December 2012 Burritt Library's Susan

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Students waiting for Bugs to do a trick.

Former State Senator Paul S. Amenta Plaque Dedication

by Arianna Schlegel

On April 2, 2013, friends, family, and Connecticut luminaries gathered to honor Senator Paul S. Amenta, '47, with a plaque to adorn the second floor wall of the Burritt Library, a space which he played a special role in establishing.

Mr. Amenta leads an inspiring life which already includes service in World War II, 24 years on the CT Board of Education (serving 3 terms as president), and a long and storied career as a Connecticut politician. During his time at the capitol, Mr. Amenta moved from serving as congressional aide to Ella Grasso (who would go on to become Connecticut's first female governor) to chairing multiple committees during his three terms as a state senator. As a legislator, he was able to effect many positive changes for CCSU and for the city of New Britain, his lifelong home.

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Newsletter Editors Susan Slaga and Kristin D'Amato

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

One Book

ONE COMMUNITY

The **One Book One Community** program promotes literacy and civic unity by bringing people together to read and discuss a common book. This program became very popular nationwide in recent years and is supported by the American Library Association. It was initiated at Central Connecticut State University in 2012.

In 2013, CCSU continues this project with the book *Almost Home, Helping Kids Move from Homelessness to Hope*, by Kevin Ryan and Tina Kelley, with an introduction by Corey Booker, Mayor of Newark, NJ. The library has several copies of this book, both in print and kindle versions.

We selected this book because the problem of homelessness runs deep within many communities in Connecticut, including New Britain, where we have nearly 350 homeless children (according to information in the *Central Courier*). Coincidentally this topic is in sync with this year's University-Museum-Community collaborative: A Home of One's Own: A Project to Support New Britain's Workplan to End Homelessness. We also want to help create awareness that people in our own community (students, veterans and the elderly) are directly affected by homelessness and the threat of being homeless.

On April 4th Prof. Jim Malley's *Dynamics of Group Counseling* graduate class led a discussion about the book and the topic of teen homelessness. They were joined by other students including students

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Student Spotlight: A Portrait of Artist Alexa Fermeglia

by Alberto Cifuentes, Jr.

What do Jane Austen and Albert Einstein have in common? They both have been masterfully rendered and given new life by Burritt Library's Resident Artist Alexa Fermeglia.

Ms. Fermeglia, a senior art education major, has been sketching portraits of famous and celebrated literary and historical icons on the library's first floor whiteboard for two-and-a-half years. Her sketches, sitting on an easel in between the Circulation Desk and Jazzman's Café, greet patrons with bright colors, witty quotes, and eye-catching detail.

"I have concentrated on painting for most of my college career," says Ms. Fermeglia. "I love the flexibility, fluidity and freedom it gives me."

Ms. Fermeglia admits to initially being pretty nervous about drawing on the whiteboard. "I was very shy about it at first. Most of my early sketches didn't take up a lot of space on the board, so their presence was less powerful. Fortunately, my confidence has risen over the years and you now see much less white space."



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CCSU Alum Donates Latest Book: *Iron Man Rudolf Berthold* by Kristin D'Amato

On March 6, 2013, local author, Peter Kilduff, met with library director, Carl Antonucci, to present the library with a copy of his most recent book, *Iron Man Rudolf Berthold: Germany's Indomitable Fighter Ace of World War I*. The author is a CCSU alum of the class of 1967, who came back to the University in 1989 to take on the role of Director of University Relations, a position that he held until his retirement in 2008. Mr. Kilduff, an international authority on German air power in World War I, has written fifteen books, all of which he has generously donated copies to the Elihu Burritt Library. He has a strong relationship and a long affiliation with the library that started in his student days and continues to be of service in supporting his current writing projects.



Renata Vickrey, Peter Kilduff, Carl Antonucci and Kristin D'Amato

Mr. Kilduff studied German in high school and during college, at CCSU, where he recalls that he had an inspirational professor who made him want to know more about the language, the culture, and the customs. When he became interested in aviation history, he realized that there were not many English language texts pertaining to German air operations, a subject that would become his avocation. Several of his books segue into another, as his research revealed a lack of literature on many key figures in German aviation history. While writing a biography on fighter pilot, Carl Degelow, he discovered that Degelow had had some bad experiences with another pilot, Herman Gor-

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Finals Paws continued from page 1



Slaga started a new program called Finals Paws - a therapy dog program to help students cheer up and reduce stress. Dogs and their owners from the local area come to visit the students and spend time with them in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The dogs have to go through extensive training and testing before becoming certified as a therapy dog and their shots and medical records have to be up date. In addition to visiting libraries and colleges, therapy dogs also visit hospitals and nursing homes.

Many people know that pets often improve a person's mental and emotional well being and can be a stress reliever. The Finals Paws program at CCSU lasted for about an hour (the dogs tire soon after that) on two different nights before the beginning of finals. The

students visited with Jesse the Black Lab and Bugs the Great Dane on the second floor of the library. Students got to pet them and get their pictures taken with them. Witnessing it in progress you might have thought the dogs were actual celebrities. There were approximately 40-50 students in attendance each night and several students had to wait for a turn to visit with the dogs. One student said that she was so happy to visit with the dog because she had been studying for hours in the library and it was her treat at the end of the day. Another student said Bugs reminded her of her dog at home.

Burritt Library will sponsor the Finals Paws program again this year on April 25 and 29 and there will be four dogs visiting. We are very happy to be contributing to the personal as well as academic well being of the CCSU students.

Better Know a Librarian

by Sarah Lawson

We all know of the charm and wit of Kim Farrington, head of Access Services (Circulation, Reserves, ILL) but what drives her to be the librarian she is, and how did she get there? Well, quite simply, in her words, "I have a great job."

Farrington first knew she wanted to be a librarian in 1984. "The epiphany came in such a short time," she said. She was working in the family hardware business and everyone who came in to the store seemed to be a librarian. She began her MLS at Southern Connecticut State University shortly afterwards, and obtained her first librarian position at the library at UCONN Law School in order to achieve her goal. Farrington already had an inkling that interlibrary loan was her passion, but it truly became clear when, while working at Hartford College for Women, a library in Denmark requested a book that only they owned and ILL was able to send it around the world. "We got so excited. It was such a cool thing," she said of the moment. Farrington first came to Burritt Library in 2001 and became the head of Access Services in 2009 where she is able to spearhead new initiatives such as the laptop loan program.



We all know that Access Services is the glue that holds the library together, but Kim feels her greatest accomplishments have been in the field of interlibrary loan. She helped to create the Connecticut ILL roundtable east, a very active group in the Connecticut Library Consortium, and is very proud that a forum has been created to enable ILL librarians to share resources, ideas, and thoughts. That's all for this edition of "Better Know a Librarian," join us next time to learn more about Burritt Library's fantastic staff!

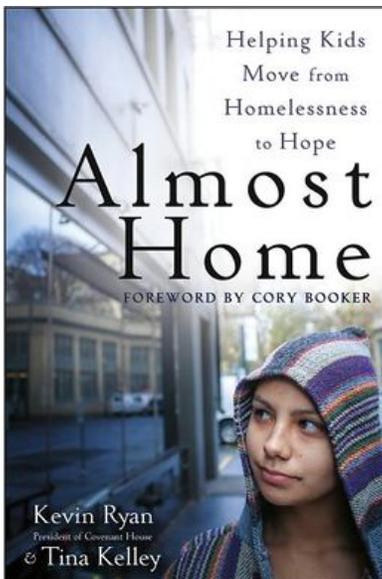
One Book, One Community continued from page 2

from a communication class. During the discussion students analyzed each character presented in the book and at the end they posed the question – What can we as individuals do to help end homelessness? There was a wide range of responses with some surprising ways to help end homelessness or to do a random act of kindness. One idea is called "suspended coffee" which means you pay in advance for someone who doesn't have the money to buy a drink. The tradition with the suspended coffees

started in Naples, and it has spread all over the world. In some places you can order not only a suspended coffee, but also a sandwich or a whole meal. So the next time you go to Starbucks or some other place and buy your own coffee tell them that you want to pay for a coffee for someone who cannot afford it. It is not a lot but it is very thoughtful.

Students also discussed breaking the cycle of violence, poverty, and lack of trust by promoting diversity and acceptance. They also emphasized the value of spirituality and compassion among us all.

A different approach to the issue of homelessness was addressed by students from Prof. Richard Benfield's class *World Regional Geography*. Students were familiar with the book and they watched two documentaries about teen homelessness in St. Petersburg Russia and in the U.S. The video on U.S. homelessness was produced by Covenant House, an organization that provides shelter, crisis counseling and stability for



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Plaque Dedication continued from page 1

Mr. Amenta was introduced by Chris Galligan, CCSU's Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Mr. Galligan informed the attendees of Mr. Amenta's many accomplishments, which include the establishment of the first public utilities control authority for the state of Connecticut in 1975, and his six terms serving in the CT General Assembly.

Mr. Carl Antonucci, Director of the Library, thanked Mr. Amenta for his role in the creation of the first Burritt Library. He discussed the library's continued importance to the university, both at its establishment and as it continues to play a pivotal role for its many patrons today.

President Miller then said he was proud to honor Mr. Amenta, a man who "stood up for our institution during some of its most challenging times." The former senator's support brought CCSU funding for much of its growth, building, and improvement during his political career - including the funding for the development of the first doctoral program at CCSU.

The plaque was officially presented, and then Mr. Amenta was invited to say a few words. At 90 years old, Mr. Amenta is sharp, funny, and quite endearing. After recognizing several important people in the audience - with Mr. Galligan later remarking that this was the act of a true politician - Mr. Amenta imparted stories of his political career, as well as several about how he first became involved with CCSU. His father was a tradesman at Stanley Works and Mr. Amenta assumed he would follow in his footsteps. However, his high marks in school were noticed, and he was talked into attending the Teacher's College, which at the time cost a whopping \$20 in tuition!

Mr. Amenta wanted to ensure that he was able to leave everyone with one message that day, and that was the importance of CCSU as an institution of higher learning in the state of Connecticut. "Take a look at Central, take a look at the students going to Central - most of them could never afford to go elsewhere," he reminded the audience. Mr. Amenta has long been a strong supporter of CCSU as an equalizing opportunity for post-secondary education.

Despite having been offered other honors, such as having roads named after him, Mr. Amenta had turned down all other proposals, until now. He "really appreciated" the honor bestowed by the plaque which has been installed in his honor on the second floor of the library which he helped to establish.

Mr. Amenta will be best remembered by our community as the man who secured the funding for the building of the first Elihu Burritt Library.

The ceremony was also graced by the presence two New Britain mayors - former Mayor Tim Stewart, as well as current Mayor Tim O'Brien.



Paul Amenta and President Miller

Student Spotlight continued from page 2

Her artistic process? "I usually sketch around a theme, iconic birthday, or special event in the library. I find a book or picture that shows the subject in a good light. I then choose a maximum of three colors and make up decisions about how to draw the subject as I go. But most importantly, I just try to have fun."

Ms. Fermeglia is no stranger to compliments from students, faculty, and staff, and she is very proud of the work she has done to make the Burritt Library more welcoming to patrons. Some of her favorite pieces include Robert Frost, Albert Einstein, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and Toni Morrison.

"I like to accompany my subjects with little speech bubbles that are funny, ironic, or anachronistic. I feel like this helps connect the icons to the students' concerns and lives." Indeed, Ms. Fermeglia's sense of humor is infectious and can make any stressed out student look at the brighter side of life.

Ms. Fermeglia calls herself a "big reader" who has loved libraries since her childhood and has worked in one since she was fifteen. "I love working at the Burritt Library! I enjoy working with the staff and students and being able to handle books all the time. The breadth of our collection is amazing, and our art collection is just perfect. I also love browsing through the Media Room, and I tell people all the time about our extensive media collection."

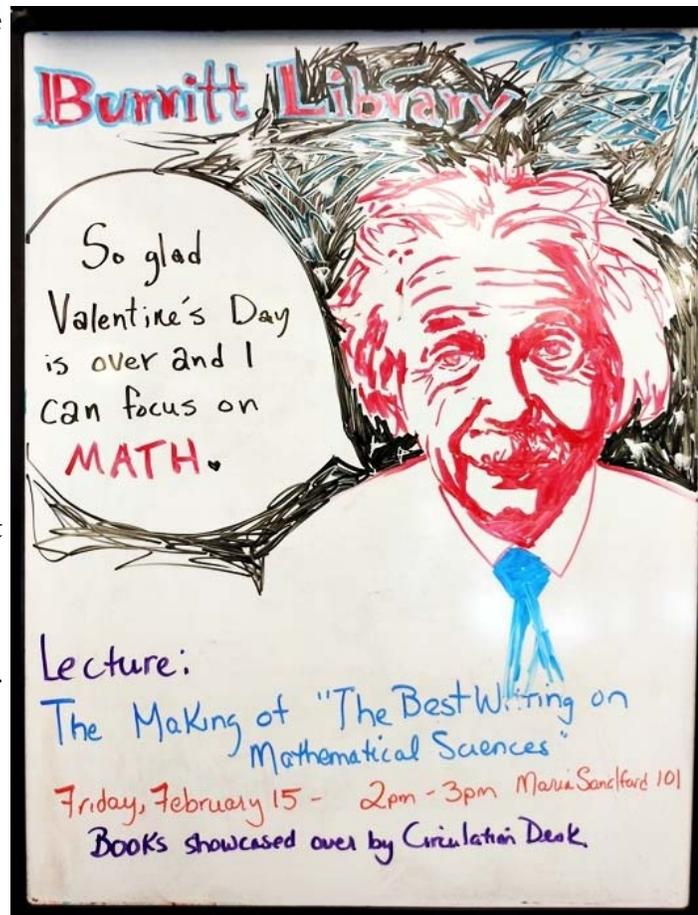
Outside of school and working at the library, Ms. Fermeglia paints frequently and does ink drawings. She cites a myriad of artistic influences, especially American 20th century painter Andrew Wyeth, who painted ethereal landscapes of rural America, and 17th century painter Georges de La Tour, whose striking use of lighting, she states, inspired much of her artistic style. She also has an avid love for graffiti and street art.

"I love to use dramatic lighting in my paintings and explore the relationship between people and space. I also love the quick, gestural features of graffiti. It's a sort of visual poetry."

In a sense, Ms. Fermeglia's sketches, regardless of subject, are like poetry, tiny distillations of beauty and truth that have made viewers laugh or smile in appreciation. Burritt Library thanks her for her continued artistic contributions to our campus community.

And Einstein thanks her for his awesome hair.

Many thanks to Alexa Fermeglia for her contributions to this article. To view more of her work, please go to www.less-than-then.tumblr.com or e-mail her at amfermeg77@comcast.net



One Book Continued from page 2 homeless youth in 22 cities in the U.S., Canada, and Latin America. The two films revealed that homelessness is a global problem and showed examples of how such situations are tackled in the two countries.

More events are being planned for the summer and fall semesters. For more information about the project, the book and events please visit our website: <http://library.ccsu.edu/onebookcentral/>

You may also contact Renata Vickrey at vickreyr@ccsu.edu and Lynn Johnson-Corcoran at corcoran@ccsu.edu

Book Donation continued from page 3

ing. Upon following up on this link for that book, Kilduff discovered that there was no biography written on Goring and a light bulb went off; Goring became the subject of his next book. While conducting research for the book on Goring, he then discovered a connection to the subject of his latest book, a man by the name of Rudolf Berthold.

Mr. Kilduff's latest book tells the remarkable story of Rudolf Berthold, one of the most successful German fighter pilots in World War I. Rudolf Berthold became Germany's sixth highest scoring fighter ace of the war. A fighter ace, or flying ace, is a fighter pilot who has been credited with shooting down five or more enemy aircraft during aerial combat. Berthold triumphed in forty-four aerial combats, returned to the front lines while severely wounded several times, and was an early recipient of 2nd and 1st Class Iron Cross bravery awards.



When asked about the research process for his writing, Mr. Kilduff revealed a heavy reliance on print materials. When he started his research, he first began to make contacts with archives in Germany by mail, and later went to visit many of these archives where he obtained photo static copies of the documents he viewed there. He stated that these archives helped him tremendously, and that not a page of those documents can be found online. When looking for materials that were not held locally, he also credits the interlibrary loan department at the Elihu Burritt library as oftentimes being, "the resource that provided me with the resources." He went on to say, "In terms of what I do, I keep coming back to the library, and when I say the library, I mean this library. I have been the beneficiary of so much help." Mr. Kilduff also mentioned a network of friends, acquired over many years of researching German aviation history, who provided him with many of the photos of Berthold that are used in his book. Mr. Kilduff considers himself a 21st century writer in terms of the technology used to write his books, but notes that the traditional research role has not changed for him. He is presently working on a book about a Canadian flyer that fought against the Germans, and he has plans for visiting archives in both Canada and Germany.

After presenting his book to the library, Mr. Kilduff professed, "I have a real strong emotional link to this library; it's been so good to me. If I can do a little thing - give a copy of one - all of my books, I'm glad to do it." Copies of Mr. Kilduff's books, including Iron Man Rudolf Berthold, can be found in the special collections department on the second floor of the Elihu Burritt Library.

The Elihu Burritt Library welcomes donations of alumni-authored books. To donate your work, please contact Lynn Johnson-Corcoran at Corcoran@mail.ccsu.edu.

2014 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

The 2014 undergraduate Library Research 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 2014 at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD).

For more information and an application please visit:
<http://library.ccsu.edu/services/award/application.php>

Application packets will be due in February 2014

ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY

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When you make a donation to the library you support the academic achievement of our students, the institutional rank and reputation of the university, and the library outreach program. For more information, or to make a donation, please contact Renata Vickrey at 860 832-2085 or by email vickreyr@ccsu.edu You can also give online at <http://library.ccsu.edu/> by clicking on *Support the Burritt Library*.

THANK YOU TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FRIENDS OF THE BURRITT LIBRARY FUND:

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