

ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



From the Desk of the Library Director – EXCITE Transformation for Libraries Update

By Dr. Carl Antonucci, Jr.

In the last newsletter, I wrote about our participation in the Excite Transformation for Libraries Cohort 1 program. This program was made possible by an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant that was awarded to the Connecticut State Library. In this newsletter, I want to provide an update on our progress. Martha Kruey, Kristin D'Amato, Kristina Edwards, Susan Slaga-Metivier and myself have attended six all-day training sessions, participated in multiple conference calls, conducted surveys and focus groups with faculty and have had many team meetings. The Excite team would like to thank everyone who participated in our survey and focus groups to help us gather



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

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Human Library Event at the Elihu Burritt Library

By Susan Slaga-Metivier

The Human Library took place at Elihu Burritt Library on April 11 and was coordinated by Susan Slaga-Metivier with a lot of help from other librarians. A Human Library is an event that encourages people from different backgrounds to talk with and learn from each other. Human books are volunteers who are willing to share their stories and/or their expertise via a one on one conversation or a conversation with a small group. Participants can "borrow" (or talk) with human books for up to 30 mins at a time in order to have a conversation and ask questions about the human book's topic. The book sessions took place simultaneously in the Special Collections room, the library classroom and the Media Center conference room.



A volunteer "book" telling her story to three readers

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CCSU Veterans History Project: Collecting and Preserving Connecticut's Military Past for Posterity

By Matthew Rhoades



L to R: Matthew Rhoades, Dr. Carl Antonucci, Steven Kliger, Briana McGuckin

Created by the unanimous vote of the 106th Congress in November 2000, the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress seeks to collect veterans' oral history interviews, photographs, and personal papers and create a permanent record of their service in America's wars. The purpose of collecting veterans' stories, according to the Library of Congress, is to make "accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war."

After being led by Eileen Hurst for many years, the CCSU VHP is now headed by reference librarian Briana McGuckin, and is a collaboration between Steven Kliger, Executive Director of the Center for Public Policy and Social Research and Elihu Burritt Library Director Dr. Carl Antonucci, Jr. As an archival partner of the Library of Congress, the CCSU VHP supports the national project by collecting and archiving digitally the interviews it conducts with men and women who served domestically and overseas. The interviews are not only stored locally at CCSU, but are also sent to Washington, where they are processed and archived online for public access. To watch the interviews and view supporting documents, visit the CCSU VHP homepage at: <http://web.ccsu.edu/vethistoryproject/>

Currently, the CCSU VHP database contains the records of 800 veterans. Breaking down the database by conflict, veterans of the Second World War are the most frequently represented group, followed by

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information about faculty's views on collaboration and interest in connecting with each other. After discussing the data that was gathered at the initial focus groups we conducted, the EXCITE! Program coordinator and the Excite team changed our mission slightly to the following: "to activate our library using space, program, services, and/or resources to make it the place where community members are excited to come together to connect in an enjoyable and meaningful way."

The next step in the program is to create a programming idea that would be facilitated by our team that would allow faculty to use the library to connect with each other. We chose to focus on faculty so that they could be brought together in the library once a semester to shape ideas about teaching or research methods. Each session would be concluded with the introduction of library resources that are available on the topics discussed. Through the training in the program we have learned how to build new types of programs that do not focus only on the library. To get more faculty feedback on our idea and to make sure that it best fits the needs of CCSU faculty, our team has planned co-labs (focus groups for faculty) in late April and early May. Later in May, the team will attend 3 more all day training sessions and present our programming idea to a panel of judges for the chance to be awarded up to \$3,000 dollars to help us conduct this innovative library program.

Game on at the Library

By Steven Bernstein



Some of the games available at the Library!

Towards the end of the Spring Semester, the Elihu Burritt Library will begin offering a variety of board games to our users. The Board Game Collection currently consists of 25 titles, all of which were donated to the library by staff members and game publishers over the course of the past year. Collecting these games has been no mere Trivial Pursuit. Rather, by offering games to the CCSU community, the library hopes to – among other things – draw a new audience into the library, enhance the atmosphere on the first floor, and supplement coursework with games of academic value.

Games are different from most of the other types of resources found in the library in that they are interactive and interpersonal. When a student reads a text, listens to an audio recording, or watches a video she grows intellectually from the experience. When a student plays a game, however, she not only experiences a change but affects change in the medium itself during the course gameplay. Moreover, while two or more students may engage with some of these other formats in parallel to each other, a game requires socialness. Games are a great way for students to build community. “If the library can help connect two, connect three, or Connect Four students through our games then we’ve done something good for the CCSU community,” says librarian Briana McGuckin.

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“CCSU Veterans History,” continued from page 2

Vietnam-era servicemen and servicewomen. Parsing the database by service branch, Army and Army Air Corps veterans comprise a slight majority of the veterans, followed by the Navy and then the Marine Corps. The Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and Nurse Corps are also present in the database, as are civilians who supported military activities during wartime.

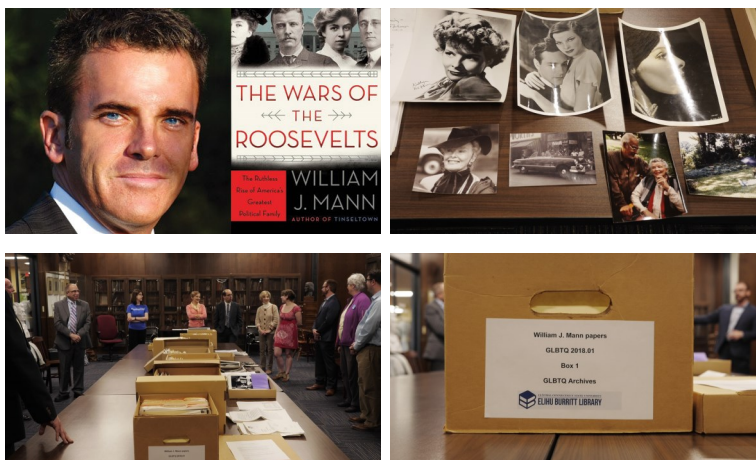
Interviews in the CCSU VHP are important teaching, learning, and research resources at the fingertips of students, faculty, and staff. Students training for careers in the service professions would benefit from the veterans’ interviews by learning the nuances of intergenerational communication. Humanities majors and faculty can use the interviews as primary sources that advance their understanding of the military experience in ways that complement their immersion in two-dimensional print sources. Moreover, since the CCSU VHP seeks to add to its interview database, the project presents a viable service learning opportunity for both students and faculty. While it is important to collect veterans’ stories for the historical record, it is equally crucial to teach students the value and necessity of civic engagement. Understanding the past, interviewing veterans, and placing their stories into context helps to create the habits of mind, such as citizenship, that will guide students upon their graduation from CCSU.

Who is eligible to participate in the VHP? The Library of Congress specifies that a veteran “who served in the U. S. military, in any capacity, from World War I to the present, regardless of branch or rank, and are no longer serving” can be included in the VHP. The CCSU VHP, as mandated by the federal Gold Star Family Voice Act of 2016, also accepts oral histories and supplementary materials from the families of service members killed in the line of duty. The only stipulation on Gold Star Family interviews is that both the interviewer and interviewee must be 18 or older.

Special Donation to GLBTQ Archives!

By Renata Vickrey

William J. Mann has chosen the GLBTQ Archives housed in the CCSU Burritt Library as a repository for his papers. This donation is a first part of his extensive archives. Donated materials are fascinating and relate to Mr. Mann's published books on LGBT film and theater history, and biographies of Katharine Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor, Barbara Streisand and the Roosevelt family.



William J. Mann is a 1984 CCSU alumnus and a historian of the American film industry and the American presidency. He has written several biographies and narrative nonfiction, including *Tinseltown: Murder, Morphine, and Madness at the Dawn of Hollywood*, for which he received the 2015 Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime. In the 1990s he was editor of *Metroline*, Connecticut's LGBT newsweekly. He is currently an adjunct Professor of History at CCSU.

We are fortunate to receive this donation.

Thank you William J. Mann and thank you all who attended the special event!



William J. Mann with student Anna Fossi and Carolyn Gabel-Brett

R. Vickrey, Prof. J. DiPlacido, Prof. K Hermes, F. Gagliardi, S. Kliger

Dr. Carl Antonucci, Library Director; R. Vickrey, Archivist; Prof. J. DiPlacido

"Human Library Event," continued from page 1



Many different topics were covered during the human library, such as transgender and race issues, alcoholism, and depression. Veganism and paranormal activity were also discussed. President Zulma Toro featured her "book," "The Pink Baseball Bat and the Blue Doll," where she talked about sexism and racism she encountered in college and early in her career.

Attendees, or "readers" enjoyed the event learning more about specialized topics and people's personal experiences and perspectives. Several of the books were very happy to share their stories, many for the first time, to show others that they aren't that different despite challenges or obstacles they've had to overcome. The Human Library is expected to take place again in spring 2019.

Guest Lecture: "What Italy has Given to the World"

By Renata Vickrey

On April 5th the Special Collections reading room at the CCSU Elihu Burritt Library was filled to capacity. Students, faculty and interested parties from the community came to listen to Prof. Gaetano Cipolla, Professor Emeritus of Italian at Saint John's University, deliver a presentation entitled "What Italy has Given to the World." The event, organized by the Italian Resource Center and the Friends of the Burritt Library, was engaging, informative and lively.

Dr. Cipolla, publisher, editor and translator, is a well-known authority on Sicily. He is the author of *Siciliana*; *Studies on the Sicilian Ethos*, and *Learn Sicilian/Mparamu lu Sicilianu*, the first college textbook for learning Sicilian.

The Professor highlighted a very long list of contributions that Italy has made to the world, raising the question, what would the world be like if there had been no Italians?



Prof. Gaetano Cipolla presenting to a full crowd in the Special Collections reading room

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"Game on at the Library," continued from page 3

This social aspect of board games makes them an excellent tool for collaborative learning. As such, many of the games in the collection have some sort of curricular tie-in. Faculty are encouraged to direct their students to games relevant to their classes. The library will also take recommendations from professors regarding games that they feel would enhance their classes. If they could donate the games, that wouldn't be so bad either!

The content of the Board Game Collection focuses on games that have yet to become mainstream. Examples include titles such as *Above and Below*, *Concept*, *Evolution*, and *NMBR9*. Though it may appear as if the library is taking a big Risk by not offering more popular games, these more ubiquitous games are already available to students through both the Student Center in the Breakers Game Room as well as through Residence Life in various dormitories. By offering more obscure games, the library aims to provide the CCSU community with an opportunity to have a unique experience. Making these games available through the library also lowers the barrier to trying out new games, which typically retail for between \$20.00 and \$50.00.

A complete listing of the game titles the Elihu Burritt Library has to offer can be found in the CentralSearch catalog, on the library's website, as well as in a binder held at the Circulation desk. Though the games may be played in the library, they need not be. Students may borrow games for a period of three days, a brief loan period that ensures no one person may have a Monopoly on any given game. For more information about the Burritt Library game collection, visit:

<https://libguides.ccsu.edu/games>.

2018 CCSU Elihu Burritt Library Research Award Winners!

By Susan Slaga-Metivier

The 2018 CCSU Elihu Burritt Library Research Awards were presented by Susan Slaga-Metivier, Head Reference and Instruction Librarian, during the 20th University Research and Creative Achievement Day on April 9th.

The award for top undergraduate-level research was presented to Matthew Woodtke, who wrote a paper titled "Hypermasculinity and Restrictive Emotionality in Male College Student Athletes." In his acceptance letter, Mathew emphasized the helpfulness of Burritt Library resources and databases.

The award for top graduate level research was presented to Teresa Lewis for a paper titled "Printer Culture, Publishers, and the Connecticut Courant: Helping the Women Who Made the News Make the News." In her acceptance speech, Teresa stressed the importance of formulating research questions that help narrow down search terms and emphasized the importance of having ready access to library resources in the form of Special Collections materials and various databases.



L-R: Susan Slaga-Metivier and Teresa Lewis

Congratulations to Matthew and Teresa!

For information about applying for the CCSU Elihu Burritt Library Research Award next year, keep an eye on the following webpage: <https://library.ccsu.edu/services/award/application.php>.

"Guest Lecture: What Italy has Given to the World" continued from page 5

- There would be no Rome, and therefore, without Rome, where would all roads lead?
- There would be no Renaissance, no Leonardo DaVinci, no Mona Lisa
- There would be no Naples, no pizza, no Neapolitan music, no Benedetto Croce and no Sophia Loren
- There would be no Venice, gondolas, or Marco Polo
- There would be no America, because America was actually discovered by Amerigo Vespucci
- There would be no violins, no pianos, no cellos
- There would be no Italian artists, sculptures, architects, writers, and opera singers
- There would be no Italian film, fashion and car industries

For a more complete list of Italian contributions to the world, please consult Dr. Cipolla's book, titled "What Italy has Given to the World."

Dr. Richard Judd, former President of CCSU, who was instrumental in establishing the Italian Resource Center at the university, reminded the audience that Davidson Hall was built by Sicilian immigrants who were superb brick and stone masons; i.e., without Italy, there would be no impressive administrative building at CCSU.

Thank You! We Love Our Donors!

Your generosity is always appreciated by our students, faculty and staff.

With the additional funds the library supplements its book budget and we can continue to provide additional outreach activities. Your donation makes a difference!

For more information, or to make a donation, please contact Renata Vickrey at 860 832-2085 or by email: vickreyr@ccsu.edu.

Donors to Friends of the Library from December 5, 2017 to April 25, 2018:

Robert S. Banach	1971	Steven W. Horowitz		Michele S. Pancallo	1969
Elaine M. Baruno	1974	Steven C. Johnson		Francis T. Pascual	1967
Thomas E. Bruenn	1961	Catherine H. Jost	1974	Janice M. Patzold	1968
Catherine D. Chance	1985	James F. Jost	1970	Lauren A. Perdue	
Ruth B. Childs	1947	Deborah M. Kennedy	1975	Walter J. Piotrowski	1970
Judith L. Cowell	1967	Mary F. Langford	1957	Mary Ann Rappelt	1992
William J. Cowell	1966	Leonard G. Lanza	1961	Jessica L. Reid	2013
Harvey Dorman	1964	Gerald M. Lemega	2017	Ashis Roychowdhury	1992
Pamela Duval	1973	Richard B. Lewis		Thomas C. Shea	1987
Pamela A. Falcone	1965	Susanne B. Lewis	1966	Sherrod E. Skinner III	
Paul J. Falcone	1967	Deborah K. Martin	1973	David C. Skinner, Jr.	
Judith L. Gaffney	1966	Wayne R. Martin	1973	Pawel M. Stachowiak	2009
Francis J. Gagliardi		Peggy L. McGrath	1992	William F. Sutton	1964
Howard L. Gauthier	1957	Eileen M. Meehan	1980	Renata C. Vickrey	
Virginia A. Gauthier	1959	Barbara A. Miller	1964	Jo-Anne T. Waller	1965
Paul J. Hartung		Ronald J. Moss	1967	Thomas R. Warren	1974
Lorraine B. Hoebel	1970	Giles A. Packer		Sarah E. White	
George N. Holland	1967	Joan G. Packer		Richard A. Wiszniak	1973
Susan F. Holland	1967	LisaAnn Paiva	2000	Robert W. Zagryn	1974

Here it is - Devil Double Dare!

By Renata Vickrey



From April 30 – May 4, 2018, the CCSU Alumni Association will match gifts between \$25 and \$500. Please consider Burritt Library and the Textbook Fund! We are grateful for your support and the role it plays in the teaching, learning and research at CCSU. To learn more and make a donation go to: <https://ccsu.networkforgood.com/causes/4010-elihu-burritt-library>

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Finals Hours (5/6-5/12):

Sunday: 3 p.m. – 10:45 p.m.
Mon-Weds: 8 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m. – 10:45 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Summer Break Hours:

Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Sat-Sun: CLOSED

Reference services are available when the library is open.

Call: (860) 832-2060

Text: (860) 288-8663

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Or come see us in-person on the **2nd floor!**