

Elihu Burritt Library Newsletter

Library Welcomes Dr. Roy Temple as Interim Library Director by Kathy Steadman

Burritt Library welcomes Dr. Roy Temple as Interim Library Director. Dr. Temple received his undergraduate degree from Northeastern University and his Master's and Ph.D. in Instructional Technology from UCONN. Dr. Temple is no stranger to CCSU. He began his career here in 1972 as an instructor and administrator in the Media Center. In 1975, he became Administrative Faculty. Seven years later he was promoted to Director of Media Services. Temple was appointed CCSU's Interim Chief Information Officer in 2005, a position he held until his retirement in 2006.

While Director of the Media Center, Dr. Temple collaborated with the Burritt Library on a number of projects including the current Veterans History Project that preserves oral histories of Connecticut Veterans.



Roy Temple, Ph.D.
Interim Library Director

The search for a new Director of Library Services is currently underway.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Burritt Library has a new database, **Plunkett Research Online**. It contains 26 industry reports as well as reports on private, international, and middle market companies. It also lets you create professional quality, custom industry reports in PDF format.

On November 12, 2008 Dr. Kris Larsen presented *Shadow and Flame: Myth, Monsters, and Mother Nature in Middle-earth* to an audience of students and faculty. She discussed how our ancient ancestors described events such as earthquakes, meteors, and eclipses, and how the natural environment plays the role of a major characters in Tolkien's famous works.

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On Display: The Veterans History Project

The library hosted an exhibit of military memorabilia owned by the men and women interviewed for the Veterans History Project at CCSU. The exhibit was on display from October 1 - November 15, 2008 on the main level of the library. The Veterans History project was established by Congress in 2000 to preserve and archive the oral histories of men and women who have served in any of our country's wars or any civilian who supported the war effort. CCSU's Center for Public Policy and Social Research has been a project partner since 2005, and has collected over 120 interviews from Connecticut veterans of World War II through the present conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Those videotaped interviews are available in their entirety through the library's Veterans History Project Digital Archive (<http://content.library.ccsu.edu>). In addition to the interviews, which were conducted by

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World War II veteran Morton Katz, one the CT veterans interviewed for the VHP, was a member of the 502nd Parachute Infantry of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division. Katz participated in the Anzio invasion and the "Battle of the Bulge". Photo by Bob Wessman

Connecticut's Free Black Community and the Making of America's First Black Diplomat by Christopher Teal

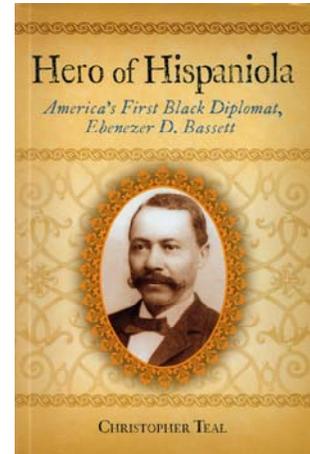
The first African American diplomat was a native son of Connecticut. Ebenezer D. Bassett was an educator, abolitionist, and black rights activist, and the U.S. diplomat to the Republic of Haiti in 1869. Through eight years of bloody civil war and coups d'état, Bassett served with distinction, courage, and integrity in one of the most crucial, but difficult postings of his time.

Just as intriguing as Bassett's later professional life as a diplomat was the family and the free black community from which he came. Connecticut's black community had a strong tradition of playing important leadership roles but even among them the Bassetts would stand out. Bassett's great-grandfather and grandfather were slaves, but his grandfather won his freedom by volunteering to fight in the Revolutionary War. Likewise, Ebenezer's father, Eben Tobias, was a leader in his community of Derby, Connecticut.

Many jurisdictions excluded blacks from public education, but Derby, CT was different. Ebenezer attended local public

schools and graduated, which was no small affair even for whites. But even more impressive, he worked his way through a college preparatory program in Massachusetts, and returned to Connecticut, transferring to the Connecticut State Normal School in August of 1853.

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Ebenezer D. Bassett (1833-1908) was the first African American to enroll at CCSU in 1853.

New Video Helps Students Find Their Way Through Burritt Library



In September 2008, Burritt Library showcased its new video, "The Sisterhood of the Lost Girls: Finding Their Way through Burritt Library." It was designed to give students an overview of where things are located in the library, especially if they are off-campus or new to CCSU.

The video stars two sisters and CCSU students, Kim and Ashley Carvalho. Their characters need to find some information sources for a history class and they go to the library to do research. While they are at the library, they lose track

of time and get stuck in the library alone overnight... or so they think! While searching for some articles, they encounter Emily, the Burritt Library ghost who helps them find information sources for their final paper.

"We wanted a way to reach students and faculty in an entertaining way that educates them about the resources Burritt Library has to offer," stated Susan Slaga, Reference Librarian. "In this YouTube generation, we wanted to reach people who are often at home sitting in front of the computer. We hope this will encourage more people to come to the library."

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ILLiad is the New Face of Interlibrary Loan by Kimberly Farrington

Burritt Library has a new Interlibrary Loan system to process ILL requests, ILLiad. The new system is faster and more user-friendly. It alleviates the need to reenter user information when requesting multiple items. Also, if you need to find a title you borrowed three years ago, you no longer have to contact the Interlibrary Loan office to track down the information; it can be done online. You can also track the status of your items, view electronic documents, request renewals, and much more.

When you want to request an item, click on the [Get books and articles not found at CCSU](#) (ILL) link on the Burritt Library homepage. This will bring you to the ILLiad login screen. If you are a new user, you should click the [First Time User Link](#) to set up an ILLiad account. You only need to register once. You must log into your ILLiad account to request books, DVD, videos, and journal articles not found at the Burritt Library. However, if the book, DVD or video is available at one of the three other CSU libraries, you can place a hold on it through the CON-SULS catalog. Your ILLiad account allows you to view any articles that are received electronically. In the future, the ILL office hopes to scan articles that are received by mail or fax if the quality is good enough. Links to the new service are also available in most of the library's research databases. The ILLiad request forms are pre-populated with citation data, thus alleviating the need for re-keying the request.

The ILL office also has a second piece of scanning software which easily processes articles electronically and delivers them to your desktop. ILLiad has a direct link to OCLC's World Cat Resource Sharing database, so we have streamlined the ordering process and no longer have to manually update and download requests into the system. Eventually, we hope to have ILLiad and iCONN reQuest, the union catalog of Connecticut public, academic and special libraries, interacting seamlessly. We are currently working with the iCONN reQuest staff on this.

The ILL office staff hopes that you enjoy using the new system and will welcome the enhancements that it has brought to interlibrary loan at CCSU. If you have any questions please contact us at 832- 3408.

Library Video

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The video was well-received by students, faculty and staff. Many people thought it was a creative way to advertise the library's resources. Kim Carvalho, one of the actors and a Theater and Communication major said, "This is a great way to reach students who aren't familiar with Burritt Library. It makes it more inviting. It's boring to just sit in a class and listen to a professor."

The library video as well as screencast tutorials will be available on the Burritt Library website beginning in January. There will also be a podcasts episode each week during the spring semester that introduces a new research database, skill, or tool. "We would like to empower students to begin research on their own and locate some basic sources. Then if they have questions or have advanced research needs, they can always stop by the library or give us a call," said Slaga.

Hero of Hispaniola

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The all-white State Normal School began in 1849 and remains today as the oldest public university in the state, Central Connecticut State University. Bassett was the very first black student to enroll.

After graduation, Bassett taught at a progressive, new all-black high school in Philadelphia. Teaching at the Institute for Colored Youth (ICY), which would later become Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, he saw his chance to make a difference. However, Philadelphia, like the rest of the country, was dragged into the bloody Civil War. Bassett became one of the city's leading voices on the source of the conflict—the liberation of black slaves. In spite of the controversy, Bassett opened the doors of ICY to become a locale in the city for recruiting black soldiers.

Bassett's remaining years as an educator and black activist would cement his position in the abolitionist community. Thus, it was of little surprise that when President Ulysses S. Grant came into office he looked for black leaders like Bassett to fill important political and diplomatic positions. Bassett served in horror-filled Haiti. The Haitian war, the so-called *Guerre des Cacos*, was particularly devastating even by the standard of the previous blood-letting on the island.

By December 1869, Port-au-Prince itself was under siege and rebels bombarded the Presidential Palace. Haitian President Sylvain Salnave's supporters and family rushed for cover, many coming onto Bassett's fifteen acre compound. Bassett, who soon grew quite sick from exposures to a tropical illness, nonetheless continued working and reporting back to Washington of the fighting as almost three thousand terrified women and children refugees filled the grounds of his home. With little regard for his personal safety, Bassett escorted this army of refugees into the heart of the capital so that they might safely return to their homes. Other political opponents captured did not fare as well as Bassett's group. Many, including President Salnave, were quickly killed. The rebels clearly did not want to waste time on a trial.

Though unsettling for Ebenezer Bassett, it would be an early lesson in diplomacy for the diplomat. Haiti, born out of violent revolution and controlled by force ever since, would be no easy place to conduct international relations. He remained accredited to the new Haitian government, surviving additional coups d'état and violence, and served a total of eight years before four different Haitian heads of state. He later returned to Connecticut and served an additional ten years as the Consul General for Haiti in New York City. He died in November of 1908.

About the author

Christopher Teal is a career diplomat with the U.S. State Department and currently serves as head of public affairs for the U.S. Consulate General in Guadalajara, Mexico. His new biography, [Hero of Hispaniola](#), about Ebenezer D. Bassett, was published in the summer of 2008. Burritt Library owns a copy or you may order a copy from Greenwood Press:

<http://www.greenwood.com/catalog/C35195.aspx>

OBSERVATION

Tools and Techniques

by Edward Iglesias

Illustrator Bob Staake recently made headlines in the Blogosphere with his video of designing a cover illustration for the *New Yorker* using the venerable Photoshop 3 (see: <http://www.boingboing.net/2008/01/03/video-of-bob-staakes.html>). Now, it must be understood that Photoshop 3 has not been in current use since 1995. Staake responds to this in an interview for *Drawn*:

"People are kinda stunned I work this way and suggest that I work in Illustrator or use a Wacom tablet. That'll happen sometime, but for the time being I'm just too busy to switch to something new."
(<http://drawn.ca/2006/10/09/an-interview-with-bob-staake/>)

This is something I have heard from many users of technology, especially librarians. They find a way to accomplish a task and then continue to do it the same way for many years. A good example is an integrated library system (such as CONSULS), which began its life as a terminal application and later migrated to a graphical interface. Some folks insist that running queries in the character-based interface is just faster, and they are right. With CONSULS, the character-based interface is running off a massive server in Hartford. It takes very little effort to draw a screen and display the results in a telnet window as opposed to its GUI counterpart, which has to draw a graphical interface on the desktop. The difference might be a few seconds to a few minutes depending on the task, though the result is the same.

This also illustrates the difference between a tool and a technique. In the case of CONSULS, the tools used are essentially the same. Although the graphical interface has some important export features not found in the older, character-based interface, it is essentially just another tool. The *technique* is what is important. The ability to formulate a search that grabs the sets of records that you need is a learned skill, which is much more important to have than the tool used.

Another example that comes to mind is writing. We all have word processors on our desktop, but that does not make us all writers any more than the ownership of a hammer makes you a carpenter. There are many times when simply learning a new technology will not help the user perform tasks any better.

The opposite is also true, however. Other than a few nostalgia buffs most writers who can afford a computer use one rather than a typewriter. This is simply because they know that this tool will be the best one to enhance their technique. The trick is to give yourself time to investigate the options. "Playing around" with new software is vital to most of us since we cannot expect things to stand still. Change is the only constant, especially in the library world. When you go to a conference try out the latest technology products vendors have. See if they would make your life easier. If it is simply a new tool that does the same thing you were doing before, you have every right to ask why it is necessary. If on the other hand the tool will help your technique or the way you accomplish a task, you should embrace the opportunity to learn something new. To quote Samuel Johnson, "Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous mind."

The Burritt Library's Special Collections Department by Frank Gagliardi

The Elihu Burritt Library Special Collections Department was established over 40 years ago. The first accessioned items were two Babylonian clay tablets and the 1673 edition of *Essays or Counsels* by Francis Bacon.

The collection grew rapidly in the early 1960s when CCSU President Herbert Welte provided some funding to Burritt Library. The Library Director, Robert Massmann, traveled to New York where he purchased books that formed the basis of today's Special Collections Department.

While the grant funding for Special Collections ended after a few years, the collections have been sustained by the generosity of several organizations and individuals. Some donations include:

- An extensive collection of materials about World Fairs and Expositions.
- The Arthur Bacon collection of 1,500 surveys of properties in the Central Connecticut region, including CCSU's land.
- The Polish Heritage collection developed by the late Professor Stanislaus Blejwas.
- Materials compiled for John Loughery's *Other Side of Silence: Men's Lives and Gay Identities*.
- Medals and medallions issued by United State's Mint donated by the Vance family.
- Materials from Former State Representative John Woodcock III regarding his successful effort to pass the first Lemon Law legislation in the United States.

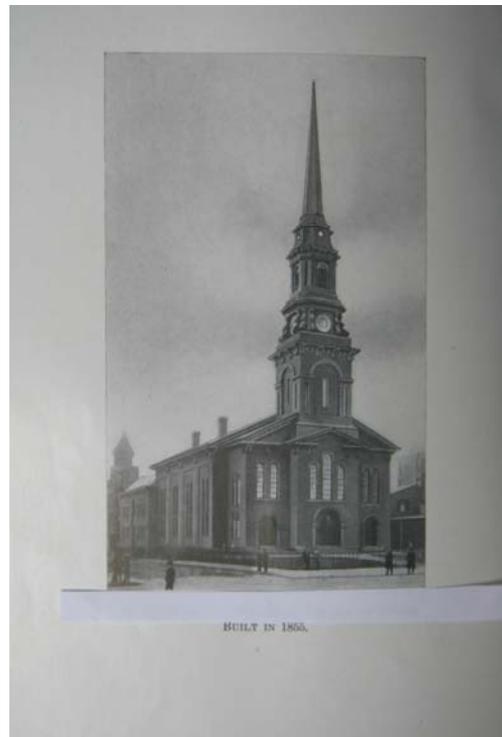
The University Archives also form a part of the Special Collections Department. They contain a large amount of records going back to the founding of CCSU in 1849 and include over 16,000 photographs. Special Collections also houses an extensive collection of books and manuscripts by and about Elihu Burritt.

There are also three additional collections that reflect the richness and diversity of Burritt Library's Special Collections:

Original records from the **First Church of Christ Congregational of New Britain**. This historical collection begins with the handwritten records of the church. The first entry is dated April 19th 1758. The collection includes bibles, bulletins, histories, manuscripts and the sermons of John Smalley (1731-1820), the first minister of the church.

Gender Equity is an extensive collection of materials related to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender organizations, issues and individuals. It was established fifteen years ago. In 1988, a group of individuals established Alternatives, the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Cultural Organization. The group held literary salons,

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First Church of Christ Congregational,
New Britain (original structure). Burritt
Library Special Collections.

Veterans History Project Exhibit



The exhibit featured military items from World War II through the Iraq War. The center case, flanked by flags, contains the uniforms and flight nurse bag of Dr. Linda S. Schwartz, CT Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. Photograph by Bob Wessman.

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CCSU students and community volunteers, the archive will include other items donated to the project for preservation and digitization such as photographs, journals, newspaper articles, and military documents.

Also featured in the exhibit were WW II-related items from the Connecticut Polish American Archives housed in the Burritt Library.

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published a magazine entitled *Invert*, produced plays and established the Connecticut Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. They donated their records from 1988 - 2007. The collection contains organizational records, correspondence, movie posters, T-shirts, advertisements, programs from over fifteen other festivals, and several hundred press kits from the various studios and independent producers.

For more information go to:

<http://library.ccsu.edu/about/departments/spcoll/other/ctgiff.pdf>

The library also houses the correspondence of **Albert Payson Terhune** (1872-1942). Mr. Terhune is remembered as an American author, collie breeder and journalist. This small collection consists of seventy-seven pieces of correspondence between Terhune and William Gerard Chapman (1877-1945), president of the International Press Bureau. The communications were written between 1909 and 1934 and deal primarily with buying of Terhune articles for syndication in magazines and newspapers throughout the United States. For more information go to:

<http://library.ccsu.edu/about/departments/spcoll/other/sunnybank.php>

Everyone is encouraged to visit the Special Collections Department or to check our holdings in the CONSULS online catalog.



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suggestions to:
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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.