

# ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

## Library Attendance Doubles After Renovations

by Justin Muszynski\*

Since the renovations were made to the Elihu Burritt Library, they have seen the attendance nearly double comparing the statistics of the month of September in 2010 to 2011. According to the library's statistics, they received 26,447 visitors in September of 2010 and in the same month in 2011 that number jumped to 48,484. Kimberly Farrington, the access services librarian, says she believes this is mainly because of the great job that was done with the renovations. "From day one, we noticed more people without even using statistics," said Farrington. "We saw students doing exactly what we hoped they would do. Looking around at all the new furniture and work tables, it was very exciting." While the attendance numbers are up tremendously, the actual amount of things that get taken out of the library has only increased slightly. In the month of September 2010, 14,578 items were taken out and in 2011, that same month saw 14,982 items checked out. Farrington says



Students enjoy Elihu Burritt Library's renovated first floor

this can be attributed to what students use the library for today. "It's less of a place where students just come to take out books and more of a group study area," said Farrington. "What I see is mostly students that come into the library and use the first

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### In This Issue:

Library Attendance	1
There's An App for That!	2
Ninth Grade Academy	2
From the Desk of the Library Director	3
Connecticut Gay and Lesbian Film Festival Archives Digitized	4
I Found It in the University Archives	5
Undergraduate Research Award	6

Newsletter Editor: Susan Slaga

Please send any comments or suggestions to [slagas@ccsu.edu](mailto:slagas@ccsu.edu)

floor, groups working on a project or just students who need a place where they can study for an exam. Now, if they're using the resources provided here — that I don't know, but my guess is some do and some don't."

With the increase in student traffic, one might wonder if that has influenced any-

(Continued on page 4)

## There's an App for That!

### CCSU Computer Science Student Develops a Library Android App by Debbie Herman

As any library staff member would verily attest, the library is bustling with students and usage is up according to all measures! While much of our popularity can be credited to a fabulous new renovation, the overall increase in foot traffic began a couple of years ago as more students brought laptops, netbooks, and other wi-fi devices with them to the library. Who knew that the formula of coffee + couches + wi-fi would prove such a magnet for students! Of course, this trend has continued unabated and a national study of undergraduate students' uses of information technology conducted this year found that 87% of students surveyed owned a laptop and 55% owned a smart phone. Of particular interest to those of us who support student academic success, 37% of students used their smart phones for academic work, and a whopping 78% said the availability of wi-fi was "extremely important" to their academic success.

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Elihu Burritt Library To Host New Britain High School's Ninth Grade Academy by Susan Slaga

Starting November 18 and running through January 2012, Elihu Burritt librarians will take part in the "Ninth Grade Academy" program, which gives approximately 600 New Britain High School students exposure to college life during their visits to Central Connecticut State University. The students will learn how to search for reliable articles using library databases rather than random websites. They will also use some of Burritt Library's print resources to gather information for an assignment and tour the library so they can get an idea of how large and extensive a college library is.

Damon Pearce, Associate Principal of the Freshman Academy at New Britain High School, stated that many of the high school students haven't had any exposure to college and may not even consider it to be part of their future. They are also not used to using reliable sources to find information. He is hoping the 9th grade academy program will help change that.

According to a *New Britain Herald* article by Carl Lovitt, the ninth grade program is made possible by a new Educational Talent Search TRIO grant that was awarded to CCSU by the U.S. Department of Education. It will enable CCSU to deliver a range of support services to approximately 600 students from the time they enroll in the seventh grade through their graduation from New Britain High School. Some examples include providing information about going to college, obtaining financial aid, mentoring, and tutoring.

*(Continued on page 6)*

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## From the Desk of the Library Director

I am very happy to report that the renovations to the first floor of the library are finally completed. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the new entrance to the first floor. Governor Dannel P. Malloy and CCSU President Jack Miller joined me in the ceremony that was followed by a reception for faculty and staff. The new space is very popular and the attendance for the month of September jumped from 26,447 visitors in September 2010 to 48,484 visitors in September 2011. The new area includes the Access Services Department, the popular Jazzman's Café, new restrooms and provides students with new seating areas and a large flat screen TV. As part of recent renovations, the library also has new restrooms on the third floor.

The Burritt Library is currently working to develop a new strategic plan that will address the many changes that are taking place in academic libraries. Rayna Bowlby from Library Management Consulting has been hired to work with a library-wide Strategic Planning Committee. Library Management Consulting has provided services to over 50 universities and colleges in the past 20 years. Rayna is the firm's specialist in organizational and human resource development in libraries. The Strategic Planning Committee has been meeting every Thursday since July. Our activities have included work on an environmental scan, hosting stakeholder meetings, and reading and discussing the literature regarding contemporary developments in the world of academic libraries. The strategic plan will help to guide our librarians and support staff as we work to provide improved library services to the students, faculty and staff at CCSU.



**Governor Dannel Malloy, Library Director Carl Antonucci, and CCSU President Jack Miller at the ribbon cutting ceremony**

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A special presentation and reception for the Friends of the Burritt Library will be held on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. The event will take place on the newly

renovated 1st floor and is being hosted by the Elihu Burritt Library and Institutional Advancement. Anthony M. Amore, co-author of *Stealing Rembrandts: The Untold Stories of Notorious Art Heists*, will speak on his book. Mr. Amore is an engaging writer and speaker and has been interviewed by major newspaper and radio networks. Currently, he works as Head of Security for the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston and contributes to the Huffington Post and Boston Herald. This event will also feature "Treasures from the Special Collections," an exhibit of illuminated manuscripts, rare books and Elihu Burritt's letters held by the library.

## Digitizing the Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival Archives

by Sarah Lawson and Arianna Schlegel

If you are a film enthusiast, have we got a collection for you!

Burritt Library has been lucky to become the depository of a unique and very comprehensive collection of GLBTQ films and associated paraphernalia thanks to the hard work of Shane Engstrom, director of the *CT Gay and Lesbian Film Festival* (CTGLFF), which is now in its 24th year. Frank Gagliardi, retired Associate Library Director, also worked tirelessly to collect GLBTQ and film festival materials for many years. The library's Electronic Resources and Information Systems department has been hard at work organizing and digitizing these materials to make them accessible not only to members of the CCSU community, but also to a worldwide audience. Located at <http://content.library.ccsu.edu/>, the collection is a lot of fun to poke around in whether or not you are a cinephile.

One of the most enjoyable features of the collection is the trailers that our own Norm Ferriere has been working hard to produce for many of the films that we have in our catalog. Not only do the movies look intriguing, but you simply must see Norm's spectacular trailer editing talent! Be sure to check out some of his clips— one of our favorites is for the movie *Butler*.

Our next step will be to make the collection more organized and accessible to a broader audience. While the collection is great in and of itself, we feel that the current browsing feature isn't quite enough for today's online visitor. We intend to make entry pages for the site, which will allow the user to explore the film festival by year, page through programs, watch trailers, and browse through posters, movie stills, behind-the-scenes images, technical specs, and more. The CTGLFF is nearing its 25th anniversary, and we hope to have a great site ready to share at the celebration!



## Renovations

(Continued from page 1)

thing else in the building, say Jazzman's Café and Bakery? Don DeGruttola, the general manager of CCSU dining services, says this is the case. In sticking with the formula of comparing September of 2010 to September 2011, the income for the month went from \$7,338 all the way up to \$14,276.

"Personally, I think they did a great job with the library, the layout on the ground floor with all the places for study groups, that configuration certainly gets more students there," said DeGruttola.

"When people meet in those groups, it lends itself to 'hey let me get a cup of coffee.'" Renata Vickrey, library technician of special collections and archives, says she's noticed more students coming into the special collections section but encourages all students to come if they are working on a project or a pa-

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# Mobile

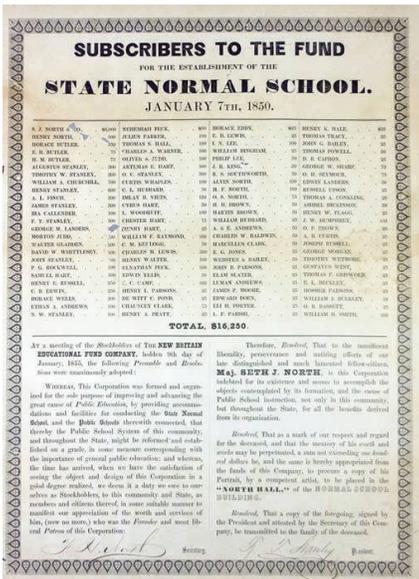
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The library's Electronic Resources and Information Systems Department is staying abreast of these trends and has introduced a number of services optimized for mobile devices like iPods and smart phones over the past few years. Our latest venture is **Burritt Library Mobile**, an app developed for the Android operating system by Wit Meesangnil. Wit recently completed an M.S. in Computer Science at CCSU, and the library app was originally created as a capstone project for his degree. Coming up with the concept of the app and what it was intended to do was the biggest hurdle to overcome during its development, according to Wit. "We figured that the killer feature of the app would be the mobile catalog, and we wanted to make it so that users could see the approximate location of the book in the library stacks," Wit explained. Using the book's call number, the app will map a book's location in the stacks by matching the call number with stack location information. Testing the app was an important part of development, and Wit was surprised by the level of excitement it generated—even among those without a smart phone! A version for iPhone is under development.

*Burritt Library Mobile may be downloaded freely from the Android Market or Amazon Appstore for Android.*

# I Found It in the Archives

by Renata Vickrey



The CCSU University Archives collects, preserves and shares materials that document our rich campus history. The beginning of Central Connecticut State University starts with the establishment of a state normal school in New Britain in 1849. It was only the sixth of this type of institution in the United States and the first in Connecticut. It took a long battle to persuade state legislators to allocate tax dollars to finance an institution for the education of teachers. The state had to accept the responsibility to educate competent teachers for the public schools; however, it was a popular belief that good teachers were formed by nature and that they needed a strong arm for discipline. It took years of persuasion by Thomas H. Gallaudet and Henry Barnard, who lived in Hartford and both graduated from Yale with highest honors. Both had a broad knowledge of educational systems in Europe and were strong advocates of a good and effective educational system in the United States. They channeled their efforts to raise

awareness of the importance of teacher education among the wider public and state legislators. Their efforts were finally rewarded by the establishment of the State Normal School in New Britain. The initial \$10,000 dollars was appropriated for four years with no promise of ongoing support. Therefore the location of the school would depend on a municipality that would further support the institution and would provide a building and furnishings with no expense to the state.

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## Archives

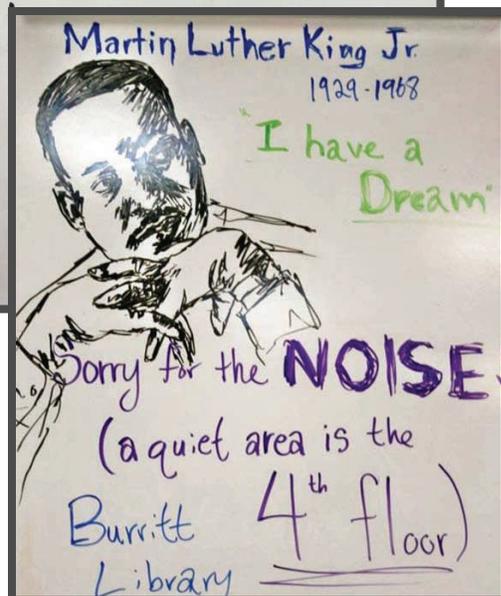
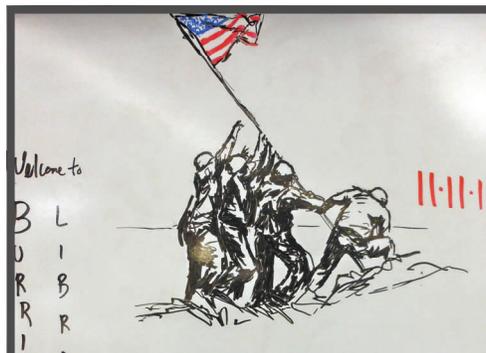
Through the efforts of Seth J. North, a New Britain citizen, a fund for the establishment of the State Normal School was created in January of 1850 and it raised the amount of \$16,250. As a tribute to Seth J. North and to the one hundred prominent citizens of New Britain who supported the fund, a document was created, "Subscribers to the Fund for the establishment of the State Normal School, January 7th, 1850." The original document as well as photographs of the first building that housed the New Britain State Normal School are in the University Archives.

## College

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Carl Antonucci, Elihu Burritt Library Director, stated, "We are proud to be a part of the ninth grade academy program and CCSU's mission of working with the local community helping New Britain students go to college."

## DRAWINGS



A sampling of whiteboard drawings by our very own Alexa Fermeglia, a CCSU art major. Her delightful creations welcome our students, faculty and staff as they enter the library. Photos by Norm Ferriere.



# 2012 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS

The 2012 Undergraduate Library Research award will recognize excellence in undergraduate research papers/projects as well as skills and creativity in the application of library services, resources and collections. Two prizes of \$350 will be awarded in spring 2012 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 by February 22, 2012.

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## *Renovations*

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per. "I have probably seen more students come in this semester but not many people know about our special collections," said Vickrey. "If you're working on something for class instead of just going online and searching for it, you can come here and possibly look at the first edition of it. That way, you get more than just reading something online."

While Farrington says she believes one of the main reasons the first floor was redone in the first place was because the building wasn't very handicap accessible, she also says the decision to redo the whole floor was a good one that was executed very well. "Before the remodel, if you needed to use the elevator it required a key," said Farrington. "It's so great to see everyone able to use the library, no matter what physical limitations they have. Overall, the first floor is much more user friendly for everyone, which is why I think it's so popular now."

*\*Article originally appeared in The Recorder, October 18, 2011.*

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ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY

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