

# ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

## From the Desk of the Library Director

by Carl Antonucci

I am very happy to report that the Elihu Burritt Library received approval by United for Libraries (formerly the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations) to be designated a Literary Landmark to honor Elihu Burritt. The Literary Landmarks Register was founded in 1986 to encourage the dedication of historic literary sites. Burritt was an internationally renowned peace activist, a prolific writer and New Britain's most famous citizen. The library holds a collection of Burritt's

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## Library Pilots Kindle Loan Program

by Debbie Herman

Looking for a good read or trying to decide if an e-reader is for you? In October the library began loaning Kindles to current students, faculty and staff, who may borrow one for up to two weeks. Each Kindle comes loaded for a selection of 80 popular fiction and non-fiction titles by authors such as James Patterson, Junot Diaz, Malcolm Gladwell, Walter Isaacson, and Suzanne Collins. A number of classics are also loaded. The service has met with an extremely positive response. "From the moment we announced that Kindles would be available soon, there was a waiting list of people who wanted to borrow one," stated Kimberly Farrington, Head of the Access Services Department. "They've been in near constant circulation since we made them available."

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Newsletter Editors Susan Slaga and Kristin Pitt

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

## Better Know a Librarian

By Sarah Lawson



We've all seen him. Tall, cowboy hat, gregarious laugh... But what is it that he does, and what drives Edward Iglesias to Systems Librarianship greatness? When asked what attracted him to librarianship initially, Iglesias, answered, "Desperation". After receiving his Masters in English, he continued on to his second Masters, in Information and Library Science, rather than start on a path to a P.H.D. in English. When asked why, he said that his skill set seemed to fit with librarianship.

As Systems Librarian at Burritt Library, Iglesias takes care of all aspects of the Integrated Library System (CONSULS). He is in charge of vendor relations, upgrades, and the most time consuming portion of his work, coordinating with the three other CSU campuses and State Library. In addition to managing CONSULS, he also provides administrative support for a number of other projects, including Content DM, the digital repository that houses the library's digital collections. He has also served on a number of committees both within and outside of the library. Of late he has served on the Strategic Planning Committee, and calls the experience, "very useful," and the process of "having the library look at itself and its place in the University structure [as] long overdue".

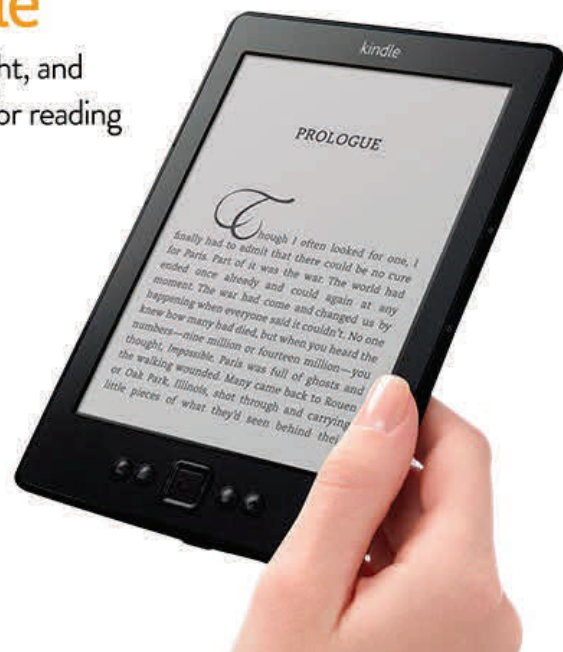
His accomplishments in the field vary greatly, from the physical changes he made as Branch Librarian at a community college, to implementation of the current LDAP system, which allows the four CSU campuses to login to all of the libraries' resources with their university credentials. Iglesias' projects have encompassed a broad expanse of librarianship. Most recently, he is looking forward to the release of his book, *Robots in the Library*, which is in the early publication stage. That's it for this edition of Better Know a Librarian! Watch for next time when librarian Kim Farrington, Head of Access Services, will be interviewed.

### Kindles continued from page 1

The library will continue to monitor Kindle use over the course of the semester and will add more if the demand warrants it. There are also plans to extend the popular netbook loan program currently available in the CCSU Student Center to the library. "Promoting a love of reading is an essential role of libraries," said Carl Antonucci, Director of Library Services, "and we're pleased to offer students a leisure reading collection to enjoy on an extremely portable device." More information about the Kindle program, including a list of titles, is available from the following website: <http://libguides.ccsu.edu/kindle>.

kindle

Small, light, and  
perfect for reading



## Literary Landmark Designation for CCSU Library

by Renata Vickrey

The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF), a division of the American Library Association, invites organizations to apply for Literary Landmark designation when there is a special location in a community that is tied to a literary figure, author or his/her work. CCSU's library is a perfect choice for the literary landmark for Elihu Burritt. The building bears his name and many of Burritt's original works and letters are located in the Special Collections department of the library. Some of Burritt's letters have been digitized and are available on the library website under Digital Collections.



So who was Elihu Burritt to deserve such recognition?

Burritt was born in New Britain in 1810, and without question he is our most famous citizen. Born to a family of ten he had to look for work at an early age after his father died and the family business was not producing enough income. This local boy rose to become an international peace advocate,

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### From the Desk of the Library Director continued

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books, personal writings and extensive correspondence. As part of the 2012 CCSU Homecoming events, we unveiled the Literary Landmark plaque at a dedication ceremony on Thursday, October 11, 2012. During the event, we recognized the benefaction of the Skinner, Cargill and Bradley families who created an endowed scholarship honoring their distant relative and the ideas he advocated.

The Burritt Library has also been continuing to work to provide improved library services to the students, faculty and staff at CCSU. Every time I walk through the library, I am very happy to see large numbers of CCSU students utilizing library resources, engaged in quiet and group study, enjoying book talks and special events and having coffee and conversations at Jazzman's Café. In addition to providing traditional library services, the library is trying to become an information laboratory for knowledge discovery, creation, and sharing. The library now offers 4 new Kindle e-readers loaded with New York Times bestsellers and popular fiction that can be checked out by students, faculty and staff for up to two weeks. The library is also involved in the "One Book One Community" project. The book chosen for this project is the Dalai Lama's recent book: *Beyond Religion: Ethics for the Whole World*. The Burritt Library has already hosted two events as part of this project that is also being sponsored by seven other libraries in Connecticut. As part of the project, the Burritt Library welcomed Venerable Khensur Rinpoche Lobsang Tenzin, the retired Abbott of the Dalai Lama, to discuss this book and the teachings of the Dali Lama. In conjunction with Jazzman's Café, the library also hosted Jazz and Jazzman's. This concert performed by the CCSU Jazz Band was held outside on the balcony of the 2nd floor of the library and was attended by many students, faculty and staff. Attendees to the concert were treated to a cup of coffee provided by Jazzman's Café. In the coming months, the library hopes to offer more special events in order to inspire the intellectual curiosity and lifelong learning of the CCSU community.



## Library Instruction at CCSU by Susan Slaga



In addition to LSC 150, Library Resources and Skills, Burritt Library's one credit semester long class, we teach many single library instruction classes for classes that need a basic introduction to the library and its resources, or help with a particular research assignment. Students often need help finding reliable and authoritative sources such as scholarly journal articles. They often also need to be shown how to order items through interlibrary loan or how to narrow or broaden a topic while searching, etc.

The library's reference department teaches approximately 275 single classes each year and reaches almost 5,600 students. This semester we started collecting data from questionnaires to see what students are learning after attending one of our instruction sessions. The preliminary data shows that students are mostly learning about which li-

brary databases will give them access to online articles they need, what services the circulation and reference desks provide, and where they can find space to study or work on assignments.

The library staff is always glad to provide these services and resources to students and faculty and look forward to perhaps offering new things in the future based on our students' need.

## New Librarian at CCSU

Kristin Pitt, the new Serials and Electronic Resources Librarian, began working at Elihu Burritt Library in May 2012. In addition to working with serials and electronic resources, she also works part time in the Reference Department at the reference desk and teaching some classes. She enjoys working with students and thinks it is important to stay in contact with the library's users. Knowing what resources students and faculty are using, and how they are using them, directly informs the work she does in her department and helps her to make better decisions for the library's serials collection.

Kristin started her professional library career at Union College in Schenectady, New York and later worked at Wilkes University in Wilkes Barre, PA. She received her MSIS degree from SUNY Albany. She says that is very happy to be here, and is looking forward to making new friends and working with her colleagues on new and interesting projects.



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## One Book + One Community=One Heart: Reflections on His Holiness The Dalai Lama's *Beyond Religion: Ethics for a Whole World* and the Venerable Rinpoche's Visit to CCSU

By Alberto Cifuentes

Early in *Beyond Religion: Ethics for a Whole World*, His Holiness The Dalai Lama urges his readers to "cultivate a sense of closeness to the entire human family. The attitude of 'us' and 'them' can and often does lead to conflict, even war. Much better, and more realistic, is the attitude of 'we'" (52).

Several other schools and libraries in the Greater Hartford area, including but not limited to Tunxis Community College and New Britain High School, have participated in this project and held book discussions and other related events. One notable event took place on the 2nd Floor of the Burritt Library on September 10th. The Venerable Khensur Rinpoche Lobsang Tenzin, the retired Abbot of the Dalai Lama, sat with about forty-five students and faculty to discuss Buddhism, the Dalai Lama's teachings, and *Beyond Religion*.

Described by CCSU faculty member Dr. James Malley as a man with a "rather rotund physique [resembling] depictions often seen of the Buddha himself," Rinpoche described his life-long study of Buddhism starting at age ten as he achieved the highest possible theology degree and position in the monastery where the Dalai Lama lived. Commenting on the Dalai Lama's book, Rinpoche emphasized that the practice of meditation can help one become more self-aware, compassionate, and forgiving. As Dr. Malley stated, "the evening was a wonderful opportunity to increase cultural understanding." Indeed, Rinpoche was successfully able to transcend culture and religion by bridging the gap between the secular and sacred.

Like the Venerable Rinpoche's visit, the Dalai Lama's book *Beyond Religion* neither seeks to proselytize readers nor "preaches to the choir." Instead, he offers many practical and empirical approaches to attaining peace of mind and achieving one's highest potential. For instance, the Dalai Lama demonstrates that science and religion do not have to be mutually exclusive or conflicting ideologies. On the contrary, science and religion need to co-exist peacefully, if humankind is to ever ensure progress and adapt successfully to change.

Widely sprinkled with references to both science and religion working in tandem to illuminate certain truths of human existence, the focus of *Beyond Religion* is, however, ethics. The Dalai Lama succinctly and effectively conveys how we as a pluralistic, interdependent, and increasingly globalized society should go beyond both science and religion to promote a universal secular ethics. This system of values, based on compassion, forgiveness, and justice, yields not to petty political and ideological differences but to the collective and inherently selfless beating of the human heart. Such a vision may seem utopian, but if we connect this to the state of education in our country today, then I think an educational system based on the principles of social justice and equality will contribute to a more inclusive and less divisive society.

The Dalai Lama agrees that establishing a secular and universal system of ethics based on compassion, justice, and equality is rooted in education. Schools, libraries, and other educational institutions

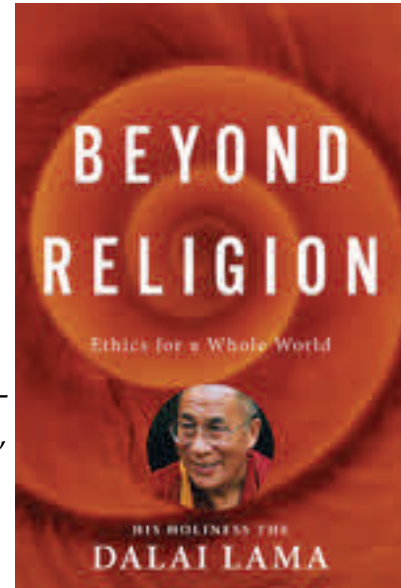
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*One Book One Community continued from page 5*

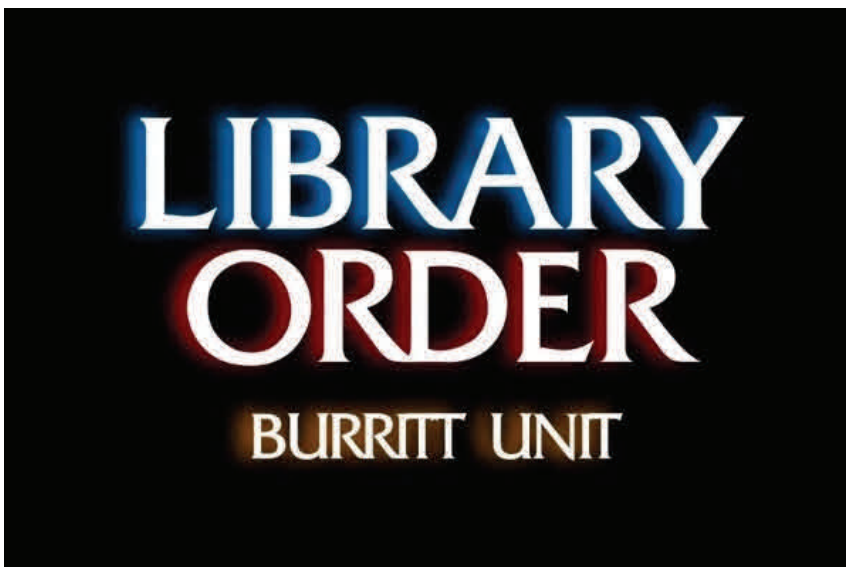
have an ethical responsibility to ensure that their communities have access to the highest quality resources so that individuals in every way possible, can grow, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. As the Dalai Lama states, “it is vital that when educating our children’s brains we do not neglect to educate their hearts” (56).

The Burritt Library and other participating institutions in the One Book One Community project have done an excellent job educating and expanding the minds and hearts of their students, faculty, and community members. For more information on the One Book One Community project, please visit [library.ccsu.edu/onebookcentral/](http://library.ccsu.edu/onebookcentral/) or e-mail [onebook@ccsu.edu](mailto:onebook@ccsu.edu).

I would like to thank Renata Vickrey, Dr. Kristine Larsen, and especially Dr. James C. Malley for their contributions to this article. Thank you also to Skyler Magnoli’s informative article “‘One Book One Community’ Visits CCSU” in *The Recorder* (Sept. 12, 2012). And, of course, thank you to His Holiness The Dalai Lama for his infinite wisdom.



## New Library Video Helps Orient New Freshmen to Elihu Burritt Library



This semester with the help of the CCSU Media Center and several theater students, Burritt Library produced a new video entitled, *Library Order: Burritt Unit*, a slightly comical off-shoot of the popular television show, *Law and Order*.

The video was designed for freshman students or anyone that is new to the library and are unaware of the services and resources provided. In an entertaining way,

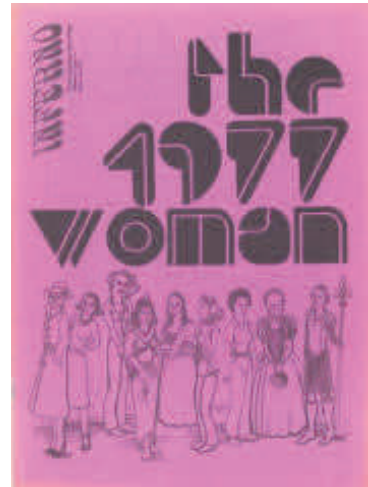
it introduces them to services provided at the reference and circulation desks and the valuable resources found in Special Collections. It also lets them know about the mobile app and many of the article databases available through the library’s website.

The video has been very well received by many new freshman students and will be added to the library’s growing collection of tutorials and videos. You can view it at <https://vimeo.com/48024429>



## Inferno: the tumultuous 1970s and 1980s in the Eyes of CCSU Students

For fifteen years – between 1970 and 1985 – students at Central Connecticut State College published an independent magazine called INFERNO. The magazine reported on many issues important to CCSC students, from tuition, living conditions, academic affairs, political activities to athletic events. It covered state and national politics, with special attention to policies related to higher education. The young editors and journalists followed political, social and cultural trends, as well as providing a forum for discussions on hot topics of the times. The Vietnam War, feminism, and environmental problems were all debated in Inferno's articles. Inferno attracted a group of talented artists who created a series of vivid and striking covers. The whole set of Inferno has been digitized and is accessible in Student Publications section of our Digital Collections ([content.library.ccsu.edu](http://content.library.ccsu.edu)). Check it out!



### *Library Landmark* (Continued from page 3)

abolitionist, and consular agent to Birmingham, England, appointed by President Abraham Lincoln. Burritt was a linguist who started learning foreign languages while apprenticing at a local forge, and this practice as well as his public speeches, earned him the nickname of the "Learned Blacksmith". Elihu Burritt was outspoken about the causes he believed in, and he wrote and published extensively. His works became well-known, but over time his efforts were largely forgotten. He came back to New Britain where he died in 1879 and is buried. His works found a home in the CCSU library and in the New Britain Public Library.

Two years ago we celebrated the Bicentennial of Burritt's birth, which was an occasion to bring Elihu Burritt and his ideas back to light and evoke interest among students in our Burritt collection. For this event we collaborated with the New Britain Public Library and New Britain High School. There were writing and other creative competitions about Burritt for CCSU students and high school students. The mayor's office placed a wreath on Burritt's grave and descendants of Elihu Burritt, the Skinner and Bradley families, participated in the celebration.

Following the Bicentennial events the next step was to develop further cooperation with other institutions in town and to continue to promote Burritt's work. The Literary Landmark program provided a perfect opportunity to publicly recognize Burritt's contribution to both the United States and, indeed, the international community. In addition, a scholarship was established by the descendants of Elihu Burritt. The Elihu Burritt Family Scholarship Fund will benefit a CCSU undergraduate matriculated student in good standing, with GPA 3.0 or better, who is engaged in an academic assignment which will require use of the Burritt library resources and in particular the Elihu Burritt Collection.

On October 11, 2012 during the dedication ceremony the literary landmark plaque was unveiled with family members, university administrators, faculty and students in attendance and the endowed scholarship was announced. We are extremely grateful to the Skinner, Bradley and Cargill families - your vision and generosity will guarantee that Elihu Burritt's works and ideas will not be forgotten.

## 2013 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

The 2013 Undergraduate Library Research award will recognize excellence in undergraduate research papers/projects and skills and creativity in the application of library services, resources and collections. Two prizes of \$350 will be awarded in spring 2013 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 2013

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