

ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of the Library Director:

This year the American Library Association has started a national campaign called the Declaration for the Right to Libraries. American Library Association President, Barbara Stripling, has asked each state library association to help with this national campaign. I am very proud to be serving as the Declaration for the Right to Libraries Coordinator for the state of Connecticut. The Declaration will provide an opportunity to show our community how valuable libraries are and to ask them to show their support for libraries by signing their names to this document. Libraries really do change lives and empower our users

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Elihu Burritt Library Director, Carl Antonucci

And The Survey Says... You Love Our Library! By Alberto Cifuentes

On Wednesday, April 17th, at Jazzman's Café on the first floor, the Burritt Library held Library Snapshot Day, a statewide event that celebrates how much libraries matter to our schools and communities. Over 100 students, staff, faculty, and guests stopped by our table to snag free cookies and refreshments, and the first fifty people received an awesome "Thirst for Reading" library mug.

One hundred of these patrons, mostly undergraduates (75%), took our brief Patron Survey asking folks why they loved our library and what we could do to improve library services. Most of our patrons use the library either weekly (45%) or daily (39%). The three most common reasons they visit

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Susan Slaga-Metivier and Kristin D'Amato

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

2013- Year of Italian Culture In the United States Symposium

By Renata Vickrey

The Italian government designated 2013 as the Year of Italian Culture in the United States. The purpose was to promote Italy's rich history, culture and current economic and cultural exchange with the United States.

Central Connecticut State University is a natural place to hold the celebration because Connecticut has a very large Italian American community. The Elihu Burritt Library and the Italian Resource Center (IRC) have extensive holdings of materials that promote and support teaching Italian history and language. You can check the IRC holdings on the library website: <http://web.ccsu.edu/italian/>

CCSU's symposium was a joint collaboration between the Elihu Burritt Library, the IRC and professors of Italian History and Culture from Connecticut's universities and colleges. Presenters shared their expertise and current research. The program offered a variety of events including film and documentaries, an exhibit, lectures and poetry readings.

Some highlights included David Cappella, Professor of Modern American Poetry and Creative Writing at CCSU, who introduced the public to Giacomo Leopardi, a XIX century Italian poet and essayist, whom he discovered while in college. Prof. Cappella could relate his own experience, a son of Italian immigrants, to Leopardi's poems. Cappella especially appreciates Leopardi's writing about the father-son relationship and his acceptance of life.

In addition, Maria Frank, Professor of Italian and Renaissance Studies at the University of Hartford gave us a closer interpretation of the first three novellas of Giovanni Boccaccio's *Decameron*. Prof. Frank is writing a book on this subject. Stephen Campiglio, from Manchester Community College, a descendant from the Abruzzo region of Italy, shared poetry of Giuseppe Bonaviri, a 20th century Italian poet from Sicily. Stephen is involved in the ongoing translation project of Bonaviri's works because only a small selection has been translated into English. Prof. Dennis Barone from the University of St. Joseph presented his own poems, as well as works of Emmanuel Carnevali, an Italian immigrant and one of the first Italian American poets to make a significant impact on modern American poetry. Stephanie Quatrocelli, a senior at St. Joseph University and a student in Barone's class, also presented her first poem about being Italian American, discovering family roots and learning more about it. Dr. Carl Antonucci, Director of the Burritt Library, and Ken DiMaggio, Professor of Humanities at Capital Community College, had a joint presentation on the Italian American community and their relation to the Mussolini regime before World War II.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. John A. Davis, the distinguished professor of Modern Italian History at UCONN. Prof. Davis is one of the best known experts on Italian history in the United States. He talked about the 150th Anniversary of



Dr. John Davis, UCONN

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Better Know a Librarian

By Sarah Lawson

For this edition of *Better Know a Librarian*, I'd like to introduce the newest member of the Burritt Library clan, Sharon Clapp. Sharon joined our team in early September as part of the Information and Resources department and we couldn't be more pleased. Sharon comes to us from the Connecticut State Library where she was the Web Resources Librarian, and was an integral part of their web presence and the online user experience.

Although she has been here a short time, Sharon is finding the academic experience "dynamic and exciting," noting that in academia, "you can make more of a difference." She has already been a fantastic contributor to our library committees and the projects, and is looking forward to collaborating with faculty and students alike on upcoming projects.

When asked her thoughts on the future and relevancy of the library in academia, Sharon did not hesitate to express her enthusiasm for the "meta-learning experience, a deeper learning, a more physical type of learning... [Education] is now a more active experience because of technology, and the library will be a collaborative part of it."

That's all for this edition of "Better Know a Librarian," join us next time to learn more about Burritt Library's fantastic staff!



And the Survey Says continued from page 1

the library are to study (76%), complete a class assignment (53%), and use the Internet/wireless service (47%). Moreover, they most frequently use the computers/Internet (63%), the electronic databases and study rooms (both 43%), and our wireless/printing services and books (both 37%).

We received overwhelmingly positive responses as to why patrons loved our library! Many of them loved our renovated first floor. A large number of respondents appreciated our quiet and comfortable study areas, the cleanliness and spaciousness of our library, and Jazzman's Café. Others raved about the numerous computers, free Wi-Fi and Internet, and wide selection of research material and resources. Most of the respondents valued our friendly and helpful staff, especially our Reference librarians.

Many of the ways patrons thought we could improve our library resources were based on building on our current strengths. Many patrons stated that the library should increase the number of accessible computers, study rooms, and quiet study areas. There was a huge demand for extended library hours as well as faster Internet and Wi-Fi services. Several respondents also wanted the library to sponsor more events, especially outdoor concerts and therapy dog visits.

The Burritt Library wants you to know that we thank you for all your great suggestions and will take them into consideration as we plan for the years ahead. If you have any other comments or feedback for making our library better, please stop by our suggestion box near the Circulation Desk or visit our online library suggestion box at <http://library.ccsu.edu/services/suggestion.php>.

Enjoy the school year and don't forget to come visit us soon!

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by supporting literacy and lifelong learning. The Declaration is designed to increase public awareness about the critical role of libraries in each community throughout the United States. The Elihu Burritt Library is a very important part of the CCSU community and strives to satisfy the 21st century learning and research needs of its community of learners by facilitating knowledge creation and inspiring intellectual curiosity and lifelong learning. Please join me in showing your support for libraries by participating in one of the signing ceremonies that we will be organizing in the next few months. *Continued on page 5*

2013 – Year of Italian Culture Symposium continued from page 2

the Risorgimento, the movement of unity and independence, that was not always on a smooth path. During the symposium two documentaries were also shown. The first one, "Finding Joseph Tusiani: The Poet of Two Lands," brought us closer to him and to his poetry. Tusiani, born in Italy, immigrated to the US at the age of twenty three and still lives in the United States. He is an international award-winning poet who writes in four languages: English, Italian, Latin and the Gargano dialect. The second documentary, "A Woman Like That. An afternoon with Artemisia Gentileschi," by Ellen Weissbrod and Melissa Powell, introduced Artemisia Gentileschi, an Italian Baroque painter, who is considered one of the most accomplished painters of her times in the male-dominated world of post-Renaissance art. Artemisia was raped by her teacher and her art was impacted by the trauma of the rape.

Dr. Carmela Pesca, Professor of Italian at CCSU, and also the Honorary Vice Consul of Italy in Connecticut, invited Dr. Carlo Davoli, Director of Education in the Italian Consulate to share with students and the public why they should study Italian. They said Italians are the fourth largest ethnic group in the United States and both countries share a rich cultural and economic exchange. Therefore knowledge of the Italian language is helpful and beneficial for anyone who wants to work, travel or study in Italy. Dr. Davoli said that diplomatic institutions are very supportive and provide help to anyone who wants to study Italian and conduct business between both countries. According to current statistics most Italian immigrants live in the Eastern U. S. between Boston and Baltimore, and also in Florida and California.

Dr. Gilbert Gigliotti, Professor of English, curated an exhibit of Frank Sinatra. Most of the exhibited items were from his private collection. Dr. Gigliotti wrote two books about Sinatra and he hosts a weekly radio program where Sinatra's music has a constant presence. The symposium ended with an array of Italian songs and arias and of course delicious Italian food and wine.

The symposium was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the Italian Resource Center, CCSU Foundation, The Italian Studies Program, the Italian Club and the Center for International Education.



Frank Sinatra exhibit

The Burritt Library and the IRC are planning an annual symposium devoted to Italian history and culture. Look for the announcement for next Fall.

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LIBRARIES CHANGE LIVES

Declaration for the Right to Libraries

In the spirit of the United States Declaration of Independence and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we believe that libraries are essential to a democratic society. Every day, in countless communities across our nation and the world, millions of children, students and adults use libraries to learn, grow and achieve their dreams. In addition to a vast array of books, computers and other resources, library users benefit from the expert teaching and guidance of librarians and library staff to help expand their minds and open new worlds. We declare and affirm our right to quality libraries -public, school, academic, and special - and urge you to show your support by signing your name to this Declaration for the Right to Libraries.

LIBRARIES EMPOWER THE INDIVIDUAL. Whether developing skills to succeed in school, looking for a job, exploring possible careers, having a baby, or planning retirement, people of all ages turn to libraries for instruction, support, and access to computers and other resources to help them lead better lives.

LIBRARIES SUPPORT LITERACY AND LIFELONG LEARNING. Many children and adults learn to read at their school and public libraries via story times, research projects, summer reading, tutoring and other opportunities. Others come to the library to learn the technology and information skills that help them answer their questions, discover new interests, and share their ideas with others.

LIBRARIES STRENGTHEN FAMILIES. Families find a comfortable, welcoming space and a wealth of resources to help them learn, grow and play together.

LIBRARIES ARE THE GREAT EQUALIZER. Libraries serve people of every age, education level, income level, ethnicity and physical ability. For many people, libraries provide resources that they could not otherwise afford - resources they need to live, learn, work and govern.

LIBRARIES BUILD COMMUNITIES. Libraries bring people together, both in person and online, to have conversations and to learn from and help each other. Libraries provide support for seniors, immigrants and others with special needs.

LIBRARIES PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO KNOW. Our right to read, seek information, and speak freely must not be taken for granted. Libraries and librarians actively defend this most basic freedom as guaranteed by the First Amendment.

LIBRARIES STRENGTHEN OUR NATION. The economic health and successful governance of our nation depend on people who are literate and informed. School, public, academic, and special libraries support this basic right.

LIBRARIES ADVANCE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP. Knowledge grows from knowledge. Whether doing a school assignment, seeking a cure for cancer, pursuing an academic degree, or developing a more fuel efficient engine, scholars and researchers of all ages depend on the knowledge and expertise that libraries and librarians offer.

LIBRARIES HELP US TO BETTER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. People from all walks of life come together at libraries to discuss issues of common concern. Libraries provide programs, collections, and meeting spaces to help us share and learn from our differences.

LIBRARIES PRESERVE OUR NATION'S CULTURAL HERITAGE. The past is key to our future. Libraries collect, digitize, and preserve original and unique historical documents that help us to better understand our past, present and future.

MAKE A DONATION!

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, vickrey@ccsu.edu You can also give online at <http://library.ccsu.edu/> and select the red button *Support the Burritt Library*.

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2013 Elihu Burritt Library Undergraduate Research Award Winners!

Earlier this year the Elihu Burritt Library awarded two \$350 prizes recognizing two bright students for excellence in library research and use of library resources. One prize went to William Dunn, history and anthropology major for, "On Luaitreach: Power, Conflict and the Adoption of Martyrs in Ballymurphy." His thesis and essay can be found at:

<http://cdm16627.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/ccsutheses/id/1866>

The other prize went to Ashley Arbor, psychology major for her thesis on "Predicting College Student Alcohol Use Based on Alcohol Knowledge and Peer Pressure." Her essay and thesis can be found at <http://cdm16627.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/ccsutheses/id/1869>



Librarian Susan Slaga-Metivier, William Dunn, and Professor Matthew Specter



Professor Jason Sikorski, Ashley Arbo, and Librarian Susan Slaga-Metivier

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