

ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of the Library Director: Elihu Burritt Library Changes Lives



On Wednesday, April 16th, the Elihu Burritt Library was part of the Libraries Change Lives exhibit that took place in the concourse of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, Connecticut. Librarians Renata Vickrey, Sarah Lawson and Sarah White put together a multimedia display and brochure that illustrated the tangible ways that the Burritt Library impacts the lives of the students, faculty and staff at Central Connecticut State University. The event showcased many events and projects which are undertaken daily by libraries in Connecticut. These events and projects that were on exhibit visually demonstrated the ten statements of the Declaration for the Rights to Libraries. The purpose of the exhibit was to expose legislators, politicians and citizens of Connecticut to examples of the great work that takes place daily in libraries throughout the state. I also attended the event and invited those who walked by the exhibits to show their support for libraries by signing a copy of the Declaration for the Rights to Libraries.

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Newsletter Editors

Susan Slaga-Metivier and Kristin D'Amato

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

Burritt Library has a New Logo!

The Elihu Burritt Library had a logo contest in the Spring of 2014. The library logo had to be recognizable across campus and to our outside audience. We wanted it to reflect the mission, culture and values of our library and the university.

What sets apart a great logo from an ineffective one has to do with perception. It is the moment between looking at the logo and getting the message it conveys. Simplicity also defines a great logo. It needs to work well in different media, reflect the library's brand and stand out in both university colors and in black and white.

We received a variety of great creative submissions. It was a difficult decision, but the library marketing committee, in cooperation with the CCSU Office of

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Event Spotlight on Writing Hollywood: A Talk by William J. Mann

By Alberto Cifuentes, Jr.

Author, historian, CCSU alumnus. These are just three of several hats renowned biographer William J. Mann has worn in a prolific writing career that has spanned over two decades.

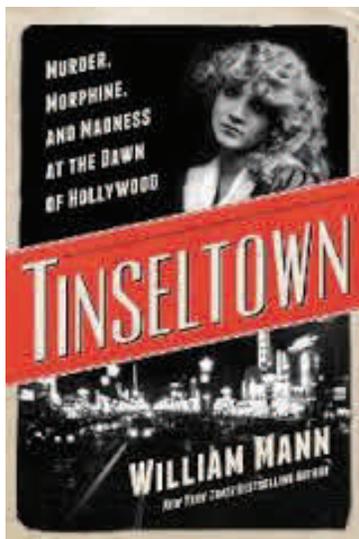
A Connecticut native and 1984 graduate of CCSU with a bachelor's degree in History, Mr. Mann has written both fiction and non-fiction, focusing on the lives of famous film personalities enveloped in mystery and scandal. Indeed, he has devoted most of his career to writing biographies that illuminate and humanize often larger-than-life Hollywood stars, most notably the beautiful triptych of cinematic divas: Elizabeth Taylor, Katharine Hepburn, and Barbra Streisand.

At his talk on March 4th at the Burritt Library, Mr. Mann discussed the power and myth surrounding Taylor, Hepburn, and Streisand without their direct cooperation. He is a skilled biographer who uses everything at his disposal, from friends and family of celebrities to elusive archival material in order to reveal the truth about all his subjects.

During his discussion, Mr. Mann went into great detail about the similarities and differences among Taylor, Hepburn, and Streisand. While all three women had very distinct personalities, they all knew how to use the star power and Hollywood system to their advantage. In a sense, all three were in control of their own celebrity and worked painstakingly hard to preserve their carefully crafted images.

There is often much discussion in our culture surrounding the "authenticity" or truthfulness of celebrity. In his uniquely perceptive and non-sensationalistic analyses of Hollywood stars, Mr. Mann asks his audience if celebrities ever present themselves authentically or sincerely to the outside world. He is a master at demonstrating how time and place play a significant role in cultivating the "star image" of notable celebrities at the expense of their humanity and vulnerability.

In addition to his award-winning studies of Hollywood and the American film industry, he was also co-editor of *Metroline* magazine, a gay & lesbian newsmagazine based in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1987, he was one of the founders of *Alternatives*, a gay & lesbian cultural organization in Hartford, which a year later organized the first Connecticut Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. In fact, many of his fictional works and several pieces of his non-fiction provide vivid portraits of the lives of gay and lesbian people that honor their significant roles in history and contemporary culture.



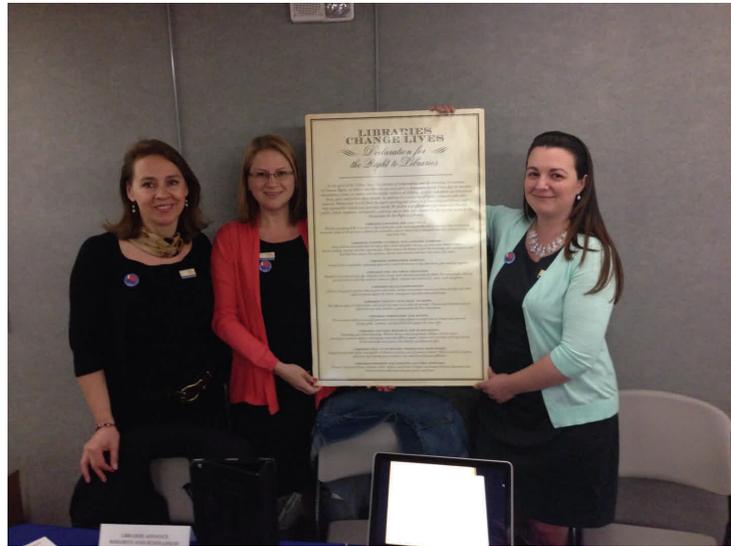
After the talk, which was attended by 60 members of the campus community and friends of the library, Mr. Mann signed his latest book, *Hello Gorgeous: Becoming Barbra Streisand*, published in 2012. He is currently working on an exciting new work, *Tinseltown: Madness, Morphine and Murder at the Dawn of the Movies*, about Hollywood in the 1920s and the mysterious murder of a popular film director, William Desmond Taylor.

Mr. Mann's provocative and enlightening presentation was accompanied by an in-depth exhibit on the second floor of the library's LGBTQ archives and Mr. Mann's works and historical

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The brochure that was created by Renata Vickrey, Sarah Lawson and Sarah White was passed out at the Burritt Library table. The brochure illustrated five principles from the Declaration for the Rights to Libraries, and the initiatives that take place here in our library that address these principals. The day was very successful, and I would like to thank Renata, Sarah and Sarah for doing such a great job in illustrating how the Burritt Library changes the lives of the members of our campus community. Here is the text from the brochure:



Renata Vickrey, Sarah White and Sarah Lawson

Libraries Advance Research and Scholarship – Burritt Library collects relevant material for research and teaches information literacy skills, taught online and in class, as well as going out to the campus community to reinforce these skills.

Libraries Protect Our Right to Know – Burritt Library provides access to a broad range of materials on a myriad of subjects which present multiple points of view. We also promote civic engagement by providing access to government publications.

Libraries Build Communities – Burritt Library is an integral part of the campus community and the community at large. The library's OneBook Central project allowed us to bring a community together by promoting literacy, and also led to a sandwich making project by our students at the South Park Inn emergency shelter.

Libraries are the great Equalizer – Burritt Library provides access to expensive databases and other technologies not readily available for students. We recently acquired a 3D printer and we lend out laptop computers.

Libraries Preserve our Nation's Cultural Heritage - Burritt Library is a repository of the Connecticut Polish American Archives, GLBTQ Archives, Italian Resource Center and Veterans History Project. We make these materials accessible in print and digital form. - *Carl Antonucci, Library Director*

New Library Logo continued from page 1

Marketing & Communications, selected a logo by Steven Janiga. Steven is majoring in Graphic Design and is currently working at the CCSU Student Center doing graphics and web designs.

The new logo will be used online, in print, on publications and in displays. The winning logo represents all the qualities we required. Thank you to all participants and Congratulations Steven!

material. Sarah Lawson, the library's Digital Resources Specialist, and I co-curated the exhibit that included many local and rare objects, such as buttons, periodicals, photos, posters, and other pieces, to complement Mr. Mann's works and accomplishments featured in the exhibit. Mr. Mann is also a valued donor of historically significant materials that have been preserved in the LGBTQ archives.

Students, faculty, administrators, and staff who attended the event, including President Jack Miller and the Friends of the Library Association, enjoyed the talk and were able to speak

with Mr. Mann after the event. I had the pleasure of speaking with this very approachable individual and thanked him for convincing me that, as he eloquently states, "Truth is never wrong if told with compassion, integrity, and context."



William Mann

CentralSEARCH by Kristin D'Amato

In January the Elihu Burritt Library unveiled CentralSEARCH, a new search engine on the library website. This exciting new addition to the library's research tools is what is known as a discovery service, a powerful search tool that brings all of the various types of library materials together in one unified index with a single search box. What this means for the researcher is that rather than searching databases, journals, and library books in different places on the library website, he or she can now search for everything in one easy place using simple keywords. The single search box is a feature that many researchers are familiar with, thanks to popular search engines such as Google, Bing and Yahoo. By providing this type of interface, the library hopes to reach patrons of all research levels, and provide them with a user friendly interface and reliable and credible results from library resources.

CentralSEARCH is a great place to begin research; it contains materials from all of the library's collections, including journal articles, books, e-books, dissertations, videos, newspaper articles, government documents, archival materials, and much more. Due to the size of the CentralSEARCH index, the search results may seem overwhelming, but refining a search is easy. Check-boxes on the left side of the results page allow users to limit their search results by material type, subject, publication date, or language. Results can also be limited to only scholarly articles. By default, Central Search will

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Support the Elihu Burritt Library by Renata Vickrey

The Elihu Burritt Library is an integral part of the campus community and the community at large. CCSU students, faculty and members of the public are encouraged to use the library's extensive collections of print and electronic resources. The Burritt Library is still a print oriented facility and it also provides access to expensive databases, e-books, e-journals and technologies. We strive for excellence in building our collections, services, and facilities.

Central Connecticut State University is a state institution and even as the state of Connecticut struggles in difficult financial times, Burritt Library continues to strive to maintain and improve the library to serve our community. In this quest we increasingly rely on private contributions to enhance our services and offerings. Gifts to the Burritt Library help us to provide outstanding service but, to maintain this level of excellence, we need your help. Your support can make a difference and help the university to attract and retain students and faculty.

The Burritt library has many loyal supporters and donors. At times we receive unexpected donations, such as the one from the Estate of Ladislaus (Walter) Smialowski. Mr. Smialowski worked for the food services at CCSU for 37 years. I got to know him personally in the last ten years when he would come to the library to borrow books from the Polish Heritage Collection. He would often come to the Special Collection's office and ask for assistance. He also enjoyed chatting in Polish about upcoming holidays and cooking. Mr. Smialowski never complained, on the contrary he would reminisce about his life in New Britain, his Polish roots, of which he was very proud, about his parents and deceased brother, a Catholic priest, who donated his private library to the Polish Heritage Collection at CCSU. Mr. Smialowski was an advocate for education, and he participated in many Polish programs at CCSU. He visited the library twice a year and he always came with a donation for the Polish program and for the Polish library collection. Mr. Smialowski died on October 25, 2012 and the CCSU library received an extraordinary bequest of \$25,446 from a man who lived modestly, who loved his job on campus and who believed in a good education. His donation will allow us to continue providing materials and services to students, faculty and the community at large. We are profoundly grateful for this remarkable gift and to all of our donors and friends who support the Burritt Library.

For more information, or to make a donation, please contact Renata Vickrey at 860 832-2085 or by email, vickreyr@ccsu.edu You can also give online at <http://library.ccsu.edu/> and select the red button.

Digital Staff Day held at the Burritt Library

On Monday, March 17th, library staff from all departments gathered on the second floor of the library to take part in a Digital Day that focused on sharing and expanding our knowledge of the ever-evolving world of digital resources in libraries. Opening remarks from Library Director, Carl Antonucci, and Provost of Academic Affairs, Carl Lovitt, addressed plans for a library learning commons and a digital repository and set the stage for a day of new ideas and potential initiatives to add to the arsenal of services the library currently provides to the CCSU community.

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In the morning, presenters David Oyanadel and Jennifer Nicolletti from CCSU's Instructional Design and Technology Resource Center, a department slated to join the library team once the learning commons is underway, provided a look at the services, software and support their department provides to faculty and students. A presentation on Open Educational Resources by UMASS Amherst's Marilyn Billings followed. She shared the considerable cost savings UMASS Amherst libraries had passed on to their students through their Open Educational Resources pilot project. In the afternoon, Mark Caprio, Scholarly Publishing Librarian at Providence College, shared his experience with Institutional Repositories and David Stoutt of bePress Digital Commons presented the features of bePress Digital Commons. During the afternoon, focus groups were also held to discuss plans for a new and improved library website. The day ended with light refreshments and a show and tell of various departments' current digital projects in the library, including the library's 3D printer, raspberry pi, digital collections, QR code ebook displays, and CentralSEARCH discovery service.

The day was a success and plans are in the works to hold a second digital library day in the fall, this time open to all faculty on campus, to share the library's projects and plans for our digital presence.

2014 Elihu Burritt Library Undergraduate Research Award Winners!

This semester, 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 Heidi A. Eilenberger, a Senior and English major, for her paper, "its treacherous impermanence": Kelsey's Message to America and the other went to Nicole Fontaine, a Junior and History Secondary Education major, for her paper, The Impact of Charlie Chaplin's Political Intentions in his film, *The Great Dictator*. Electronic copies of both papers can be found in Burritt Library's library catalog at: www.consuls.org.



Librarian Susan Slaga-Metivier and Nicole Fontaine



Librarian Susan Slaga and Heidi Eilenberger

Better Know a Librarian *By Sarah Lawson*

In this edition of Better Know a Librarian, I am once again lucky to introduce the newest addition to the Burritt Library Staff, Martha Kruy. Martha comes to us via Norwalk Community College, where she specialized in information instruction and evaluation, and arrived at librarianship as a career in a roundabout manner. She began her career in publishing early on, but decided that it was too cutthroat a business for her. Martha then moved on to begin her Masters of Science in education, but eventually began on the path of librarianship after taking a career exam. She began her MLS on the Media Specialist track at CCSU, and then later was convinced by a friend that academia was a better fit for her personality.

Since that time, Martha has found her place in academia and information literacy, even travelling to China in 2006 as part of an academic library group presenting topics on IL in Shanghai. However, her biggest contribution to date was as a key member in the establishment of the first Connecticut Information Literacy Conference in 2011, a conference that brings together faculty and librarians to better deliver these skills to students. But Martha wants to do more, and is confident that her biggest and best contributions are yet to come.

In the future here at Burritt Library and CCSU, Martha would like to foster a sense of community between the library and the rest of campus, healing what she feels has been a disconnect between faculty members and librarians in the past, and creating a library space that is in her words, "the heart of the campus" within the University.



CentralSEARCH continued from page 4

only search the Burritt Library's holdings, but users have the option of expanding their search to include items from other libraries. This is especially helpful for students looking for primary resources, as it is common for libraries now to digitize their archives and special collections and make them available to the public. CentralSEARCH also provides helpful recommendations for further research.

Although CentralSEARCH went live in January, the library is continuously updating the index and working to improve the user experience, so please let us know if you have any feedback or questions! Feedback can be sent either by email to damatok@ccsu.edu, or via the feedback button in CentralSEARCH. Additional information about CentralSEARCH can be found on the CentralSEARCH libguide, <http://libguides.ccsu.edu/summon>.

The 2015 Undergraduate Library Research Awards

The 2015 Undergraduate Library Research 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 2015 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 2015

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