

ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



After a Pipe Burst, Library Staff Rise to Challenge of Library Service without a Library

By Briana McGuckin



Weather reports had warned that the eve of Valentine's Day was going to be dangerously cold. Sure enough, at about 3 a.m. on Sunday, February 14th, a pipe burst in Elihu Burritt Library, in turn causing more pipes in the building to burst as well. Water raged through

the first and second floors. Facilities Management responded at once to assess and deal with the damage.

So did two librarians. On Sunday, when they would not normally have been working and the Library was closed, Renata Vickrey and Ewa Wolynska, of Special Collections, hurried in to help: water had gotten into the Special Collections room.

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

Book Talk at Burritt Library

By Renata Vickrey



"Italian American Women of Connecticut," a book talk in the Burritt Library, attracted students, faculty and people from the community. Paul Pirotta, author of *Hartford Mayor Ann Uccello: A Connecticut Trailblazer* and Anthony Riccio, author of *Farms, Factories, and Families: Italian American Women of Connecticut* shared with the audience their expertise on the subject.

Mr. Paul Pirotta, who worked closely with Antonina "Ann" Uccello, looks at Uccello's life and legacy in a very engaging way. Ann Uccello became the first woman elected as mayor in Hartford and the state. A child of Italian immigrants, she was a remarkable woman and a dynamic leader who dealt with important issues directly and pragmatically. Mr. Pirotta shared not only her upbringing and family life but also the history of Italian immigrants in the Hartford area.

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Author Paul Pirotta signs copies of his book for attendees

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Anthony Riccio's book details lives of Italian American women in Connecticut. He traveled the state and conducted oral history interviews with elderly Italian American women, who spoke about their work lives as charcoal burners, tobacco farm workers, cheese makers, union organizers, and of course mothers and homemakers. His book includes many photographs which came from family albums, and are windows into their experiences in southern Italy and their working lives in Connecticut.



Author Anthony Riccio at the signing table

Both books and many more publications on the topic are available in the Elihu Burritt Library. Thank you to the Friends of the Library and the Italian Resource Center for sponsoring this event!

“Right-Sizing” Burritt Library’s Print Collection

By Kristina Edwards

Libraries are engaged in a never-ending battle between our mission to preserve knowledge and our mission to provide welcoming and user-focused library space. The terms “weeding” and “withdrawal” strike fear and frustration in the hearts of some library users, who wonder why would ever get rid of materials. Others don’t understand why libraries retain the materials that they do, if they seem outdated or are hardly used. Both sides make good points, and ultimately the best library collections are maintained by libraries willing to seek a balance: preserve knowledge, but also let go of those materials that have outlived their usefulness.

As CCSU moves forward it will be important to find work together to create the “right-sized” collection to support its curriculum and various campus initiatives. The important things that we should all remember are that we cannot hold on to everything forever, and we cannot remove or re-locate everything somewhere else, either. There are many questions that will need to be answered as we “right-size” our print collections, such as:

- What level reader (undergraduate, graduate, researcher, etc.) should we be collecting for?
And in which areas?
- What other libraries in Connecticut also have a particular item?
- How rare is a particular item?
- What is the condition of the item in our collection?
- How many times has a particular item been used by the CSU community?

These are just some of the questions that need to be considered when looking at a particular book, VHS, or audio CD and how it fits into our collection. Over the coming years, we hope to work closely with the CCSU community to answer these questions and, more, to ensure that we have the “right size” print collections.

If you have any comments or questions about the Burritt Library print collections, please feel free to contact Kristina Edwards, Acquisitions Librarian (kedwards@ccsu.edu).

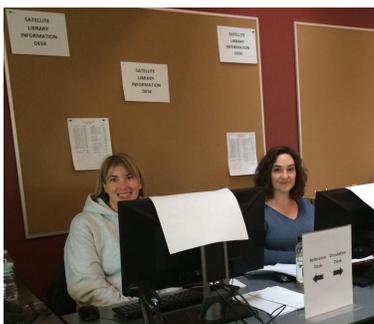
After a Pipe Burst continued from page 1

Renata and Ewa weren't going to stand by and let nature tamper with Elihu Burritt's rare books. They moved quickly and, with the help of Renata's daughter, Christiana (a CCSU senior), no materials were harmed.

Reflecting on the Valentine's Day experience, Renata quipped: "I love my job so much that I decided to spend this special day with rare books!"

The next day the library was closed to the public, and would remain so for some time. Early on Tuesday, however, librarians and library staff met with Library Director Carl Antonucci to discuss how they were going to move forward. By 10 a.m., a satellite library had been set up in the Student Center (thanks to the IT Department), consisting of two computers, a book cart with popular materials, and two librarians (one from Circulation and one from Reference) ready to check out materials. Students were able to request items at this desk, and student workers would retrieve them. On Wednesday, reserve books and inter-library loan books were moved to Alumni Hall for quick access.

Just three days after the disaster, the Elihu Burritt Library was functioning again, checking out materials and helping students with research, without public access to the library itself. Most of the students who approached the desk were surprised that library services were still available to them as life at CCSU went on: they were grateful to have reserves for their classes, and research materials for their writing assignments.



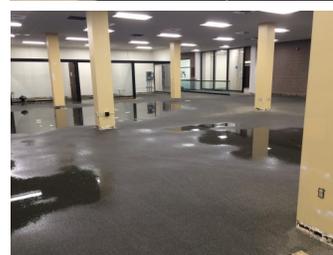
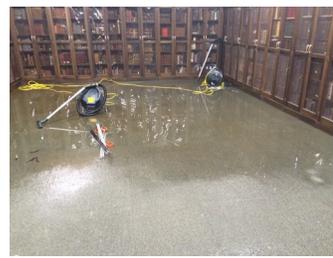
Kathy Steadman and Gretchen Gallagher at the Reference/Circulation Desk in the Student Center

The logistics behind this feat were not simple. Kim Farrington, Head of Access Services, not only had circulating materials on her mind, but also receiving mail, or materials from other libraries. "The final tricky part was learning to run the department from a distance," she says. "We were so used to being all together, with a line of sight to the desk."

This need for connectedness prompted the circulation librarians and staff to start using LibAnswers, the chat service students use to get remote help from reference librarians, to communicate across buildings as materials were requested. The materials would be gathered by people in the library, walked over by student workers, and checked out at the satellite desk in the Student Center.

Meanwhile, the reference librarians at the satellite desk learned how to use circulation software to check-out materials, in order to expedite service. In this way, a disaster turned into an opportunity for cross-training librarians and staff, as well as building camaraderie across departments of the library. On February 29th, the Library opened again, thanks to diligent work by Facilities and others.

"Students were lined up at the door at 8 a.m.," Carl Antonucci reports. "This tragedy reminded the entire library staff that our services are useful and important to the students and faculty of CCSU."



Top to bottom: Special Collections, 1st floor, and 2nd floor damage



Reserves and ILL materials in Alumni Hall

Better Know Your Support Staff: Donna Wallach

By Alberto Cifuentes,

Donna Wallach, Library Technician, has worked at the Elihu Burritt Library for an impressive thirty years. She is responsible for the operation of the Curriculum Lab, which houses hundreds of children's and young adult materials as well as books for teachers and other educational professionals. Donna selects relevant material for the lab's collection. She also provides reference help to education majors with research or assignments.

As a former elementary school teacher, she has a background in choosing educationally and culturally stimulating materials. She also has a sweet demeanor, essential for working with children. While she may not work with children as much as now, she curates exhibits, bulletin boards, and displays that give the Curriculum Lab its cheerfulness. The space appeals to everyone's "inner child."



Donna Wallach posing with Curriculum Lab displays

Donna's favorite part of her job is "creating a warm, welcoming, and friendly atmosphere... [and] to get to know and assist students, each with a different story." With the upcoming renovation of the Curriculum Lab later this year, Donna hopes the lab will "transform into a hands-on makerspace where students are provided with materials, tools, and state-of-the-art technologies." She views these technologies as not only conducive to further student exploration and discovery but also effective for helping future teachers develop better lesson plans and instructional materials.

Outside of her work, Donna enjoys spending time with her family and engaging with the arts. She has been the floor director at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford for thirty years and has seen over 1,000 shows. Her all-time favorite show? *Wicked*.

Donna earned her BS and MS in Education from CCSU and met her husband, Chuck, when he was a former member of the CCSU Bursars staff. Moreover, her daughter, Jodi, and son, Joshua, have a Communications degree and Construction Management degree, respectively, from CCSU.

Donna will be retiring later this year, and she will be missed by all. She is looking forward to spending more time with her adorable grandsons, Chase and Cooper.

Burritt Library's "Spotlight on E-Resources" Campaign

By Sarah Lawson

SPOTLIGHT ON ISSUES AND CONTROVERSIES



A monthly service brought to you by The Burritt Library

Spotlight on
Issues & Controversies

Helping students, researchers, and readers understand the critical issues we face today, *Issues & Controversies* explores and analyzes hundreds of hot topics in politics, business, government, crime, law, energy, education, health, family, science, foreign policy, race, rights, society, and culture.



Women's Rights



Tap Water Quality



Gun Control Laws



Police Brutality

The Burritt Library subscribes to a plethora of databases and electronic resources that are available to students, faculty, and staff. With many electronic resources to choose from, some are definitely hidden gems. We decided it was time to highlight a few, to show our patrons what is available to them.

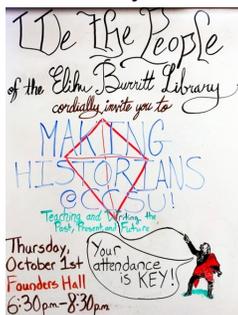
In January of 2016, we began featuring one resource per month. The purpose is not only to help the CCSU community in their research and studies, but to show the different ways these resources can be used. We are reaching out to the campus in a number of ways, like blogging and setting up webpages, to provide tips and tricks. In addition, we are hosting live demonstrations in order to give our faculty, students, and staff a more personalized introduction to each resource. We will offer

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Student Worker Spotlight: A Portrait of Kelly Moore and Guillermo Novo

By Alberto Cifuentes, Jr.

Kelly and Guillermo work in the Access Services Department, producing whimsical whiteboard sketches by the Burritt Library entrance, welcoming patrons and advertising programs and events in the library.



Kelly and Guillermo create best when they collaborate. While sketching for the “Making Historians” event last October, they gave each other valuable feedback on an overall concept: an inventive foreground constructed by Kelly and a revisionist interpretation of Benjamin Franklin created by Guillermo. The duo’s favorite sketch was one done for Halloween.

Kelly majors in instrumental music with a concentration on the tuba. She is naturally creative and isn’t afraid of going against convention. Guillermo is majoring in Studio Art with a focus on illustration. He has been drawing since he was a child.



Kelly and Guillermo really seem to “get” one another. Both enjoy playing video games and cooking food together. They also enjoy listening to music and playing a wide variety of instruments. Access Services is lucky to have them and their wonderful whiteboard drawings, an invaluable and time-honored Burritt Library tradition.

Donations to the Friends of the Burritt Library!

Thank you to all Burritt Library donors. Your support plays a vital role in the teaching, learning and research at CCSU. Donors from December 1, 2015 – April 14, 2016 are honored below.

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Devil Double Dare campaign is coming again May 18-25! All gifts between \$25-\$1,000 will be matched dollar for dollar!

