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THE BURRITT CONNECTION



CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY

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FROM THE DESK OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

BY DR. CARL ANTONUCCI, JR.

I am writing as we are about to end the Fall semester here at CCSU, a semester that brought many challenges for all of us. Many Covid-related protocols were put in place that included the mandatory wearing of masks and no food or drink allowed in the Library building. These protocols were part of the larger *CCSU Blueprint for a Successful Semester*, which was designed to keep the campus safe. Thankfully, we were able to continue to be open and to provide Library services to our students, faculty, and staff.

Students were very appreciative of having their library open again. Here is one student's comment that defines how the entire staff serves our students:

"These are my top five takeaways from the class. The first one was realizing what a thorough source of information the library website is for the everyday student. Now, this may seem like a given but this was the first class where I had to devote time and energy looking up scientific articles and scales and the database that the school provides was beyond helpful. Normally I would just go on google but now I know more about what CCSU library can offer to me."

The entire staff continues to work hard each day to assist students in all their information needs and to provide resources that are helpful with assignments, presentations, and papers. During the pandemic, we negotiated to acquire resources that are helpful to the entire campus community. Our recently acquired Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion eBook collections include over 475 eBooks on topics such as race, class and gender, disability studies, Latinx voices, Black History, LGBTQIA Studies and voices, poverty studies and women's history. These eBooks can be accessed on the eBook Central platform.

I am also happy to announce that, starting this summer, the digitization of many collections from the GLBTQ Archives will begin. This project was delayed because of the pandemic. Gale Cengage Learning will digitize these collections and they will be part of their Archives of Sexuality & Gender database.

The articles in this newsletter provide glimpses at some of the ways the Library strives to create and maintain connections with the campus and greater community.

COUNTING CONNECTIONS
FALL 2021

378,941

FIRST-TIME & REPEAT VISITORS
THROUGH OUR DOORS

4,760

PHYSICAL & DIGITAL ITEMS LOANED *

854

REQUESTS FOR ARTICLES FILLED (INTERLIBRARY LOAN)
22% FILLED WITHIN AN HOUR; 58% WITHIN A DAY

40,664

LIBRARY WEBSITE SESSIONS

80+

INFORMATION LITERACY
INSTRUCTION SESSIONS

57

STUDENTS IN LSC 150 (RESEARCH IN THE DIGITAL AGE)
& DH 100 (DIGITAL WORLD)

50

BOOK A LIBRARIAN APPOINTMENTS

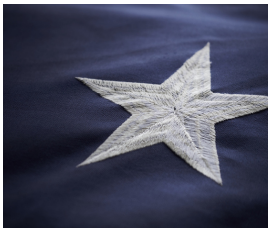
*includes course reserves, excludes ILL



By Jillian Maynard

It has been an exciting semester for the Veterans History Project (VHP)! *Thanks to support from the Center for Public Policy and Social Research*, the VHP was able to hire a Graduate Assistant (GA) to help with analyzing the data in the collections. As part of the new mission, the VHP is looking to boost engagement with the existing collection of close to 800 veteran interviews. GA Peter Moran spent the semester working with digital humanities tools in order to present demographic inform ation and points of interest in visual ways, which were then promoted over social media and the website. In addition, the VHP started a blog (to read, click here: ccsulibrary.reclaim.hosting/vhp/), primarily written by Moran, highlighting this work and profiling several veterans in the collection. Moran also worked with StoryMaps to detail the extensive Guadalcanal Campaign in late 1942 to early 1943 through the eyes of veterans in our collection: storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/42d7d8e1ccfb4390a86a495a0156b6ac.

In addition, the VHP's student worker, Martin Reyna spent the semester cleaning up some of the data in the collection to improve navigation and accessibility, supporting the mission of increased engagement. Looking ahead, the VHP hopes to continue the blog, as well as develop lesson plans and other content to share with faculty on campus interested in working with the collection.



FOR MORE INFO, VISIT THE PROJECT'S WEBSITE: (WEB.CCSU.EDU/VETHISTORYPROJECT/)

COLLABORATION WITH OUR NEW NEIGHBOR: THE LATIN AMERICAN, LATINO, AND CARIBBEAN CENTER

Library Instruction for Student Workers

Librarian Susan Slaga-Metivier, Head, Reference/ Instruction visited with the Center's student workers to provide an overview of the library website and how to search for books, reference materials, newspaper articles and scholarly journal articles. Center Director Dr. Mary Ann Mahony wanted the students to know that the library has access to many sources of information in Latin American Studies. Useful databases include the Handbook of Latin American Studies, eHRAF, Ancestry.com (Library edition), and JSTOR.

Help is always available from the librarians either online and in person, and books and articles not owned by the Burritt Library can be ordered through Interlibrary Loan.

Improving Collection Access

The LALCC's unique collection of books and videos are in the process of being cataloged by Dana Hanford, Head, ISAR. Items will be easily searchable through the library's online catalog, CentralSearch and globally through WorldCat, and cover a variety of Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean topics, both in non-fiction and fiction. Although most items are in English, there are some titles available in Portuguese or Spanish. The items themselves are located in the Center and may be used there, or in the library.



Welcome sign outside The LALCC Center

IMPROVING TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY & DRIVING STUDENT SUCCESS

By Sharon Clapp

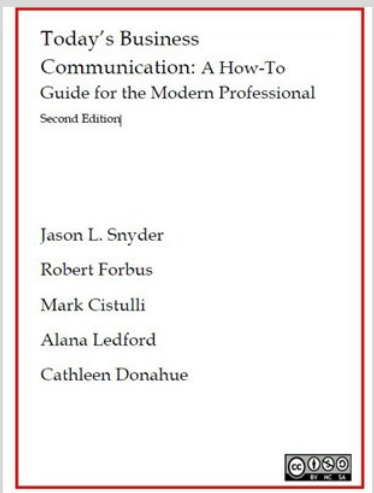
A team of CCSU Marketing professors have collaborated to author a revised edition of Professor Jason Snyder's and Professor Robert Forbus' *Today's Business Communication: A How-To Guide for the Modern Professional*. The team published the textbook under an open license that reduced costs for students of Managerial Communication from $200 to $0.

Digital Resources Librarian Sharon Clapp helped the team of authors choose and apply their Creative Commons (CC-BY-NC-SA) license. This open license makes the textbook free for students to use, while requiring anyone who wants to adapt and/or redistribute it to provide author attribution and not to republish it for commercial gain. There are several librarians (Joy Hansen and Jillian Maynard, for example) who are also Creative Commons license-certified and are happy to explain the options for such licensing to interested faculty members (For more, refer to the Library's OER LibGuide at libguides.ccsu.edu/oer).

The authors included Professor Snyder, along with Professor Mark Cistulli, Professor Cathleen Donahue, Professor Alana Ledford, and SCSU Professor Robert Forbus. They worked together to write the second edition of this book and measure its impact on student learning. They also received one of the 2020 statewide grants to support the production of Open Educational Resources (OER), through which they created ancillary material for the textbook.

The professors found that the use of the freely-accessible online textbook not only saved students money, but that the quality of their learning did not decrease. Performance of students was measured in this course in prior sections with a fee-based textbook as compared with more recent sections using the free material. Student learning was found to be academically comparable in both cases, but the students preferred the experience of working with the free, openly-licensed material due to its affordability. The Marketing professors preferred working with the OER because of their ability to customize the material in alignment with their courses' learning objectives.

For more information on the research and findings of the professors who worked on the project, as well as their future plans, visit the OpenCSCU Blog & view the 11/15/21 post at cscu.libguides.com/findoer/blog.



The textbook's cover

Today's Business Communication is offered in PDF format and has been checked for compliance with modern accessibility requirements. To view/download *Today's Business Communication* from the library's digital collections, go to: bit.ly/todaysbusinessCS. This was also the first CCSU faculty-authored textbook to be added to Connecticut's new statewide OER repository, GoOpenCT, where it can be found at goopenct.org/courseware/lesson/882.

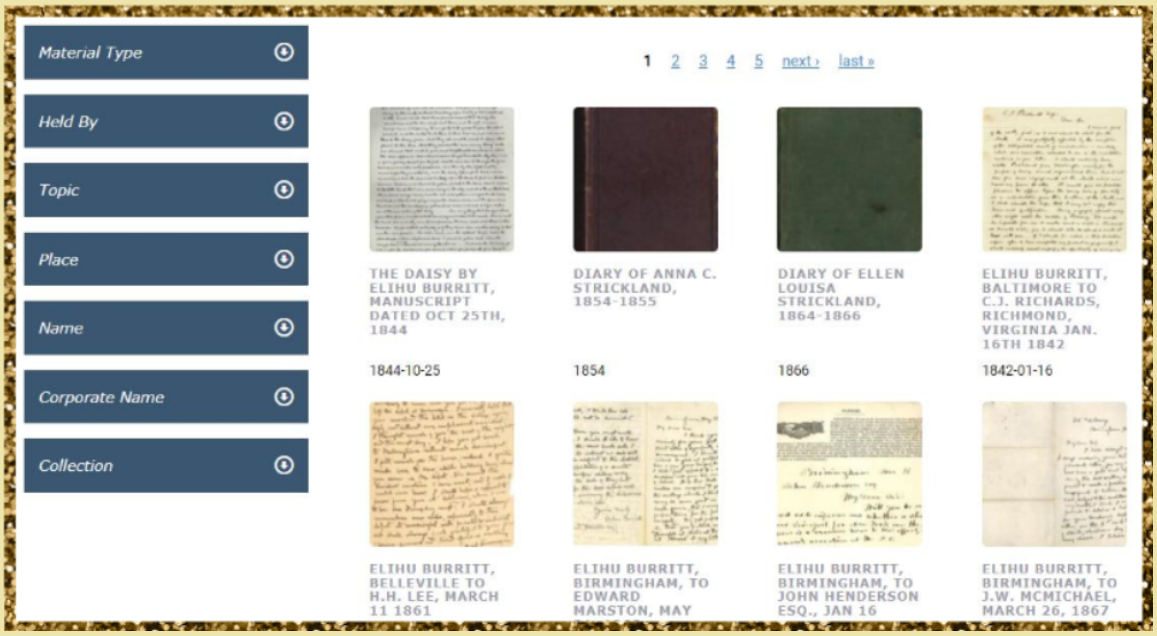
NEW DIGITAL ARCHIVES

By Brian Matzke

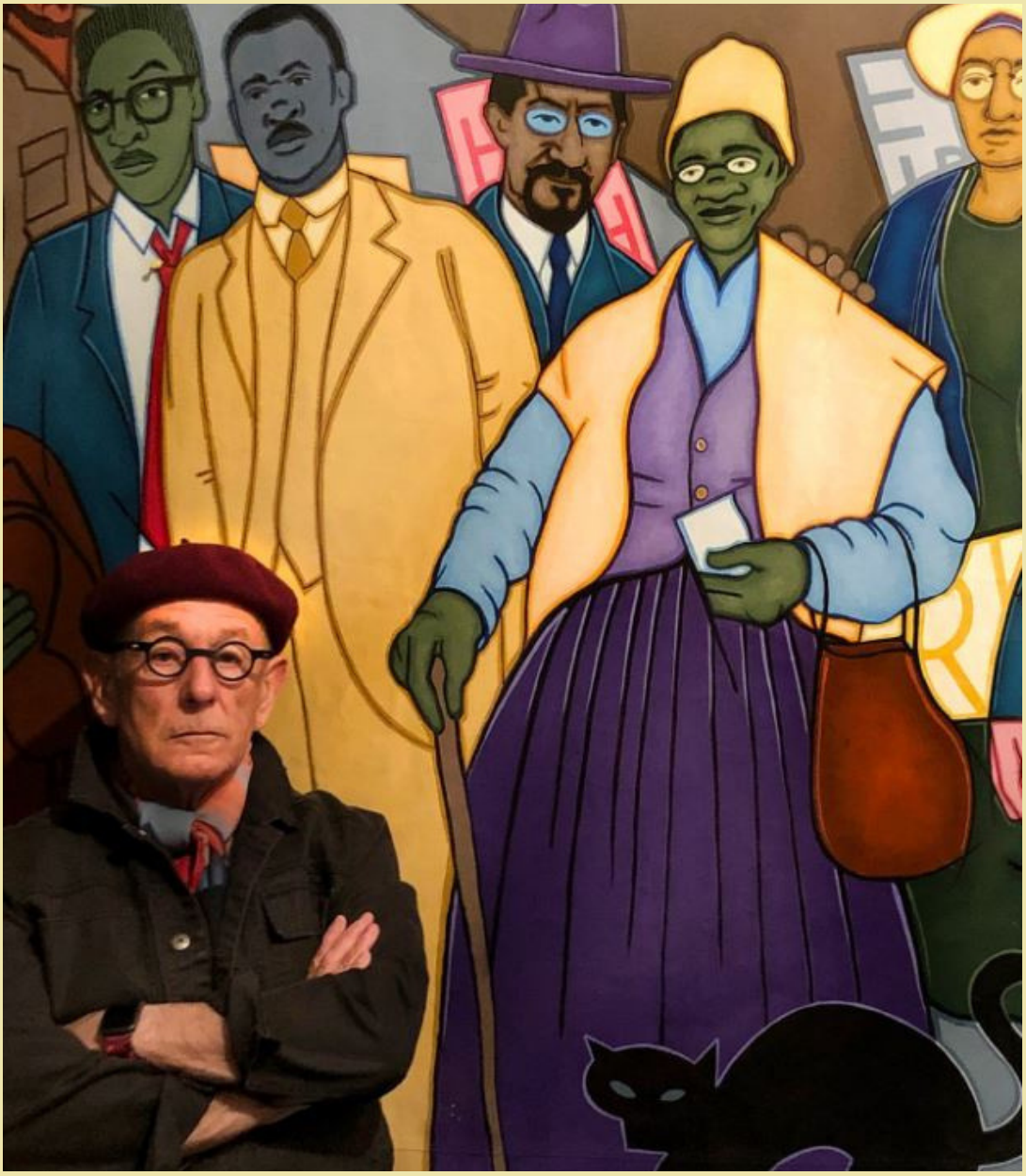
The library continues to upload its digital archives to the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA). The CTDA is a partnership between the University of Connecticut, the State Library, and various libraries and cultural heritage institutions from around the state, and it is dedicated to ensuring the long-term preservation of digital collections, as well as easy online access and discoverability. As part of the Digital Public Library of America, CTDA ensures that more people will be able to learn from CCSU's collections than ever before. Their website is found at collections.ctdigitalarchive.org/.

Currently, our archive in the CTDA includes our complete collection of Polish Posters and substantial portions of our collections of CCSU Student Publications, Polish American Pamphlets, and Treasures of the Special Collections. We are also in the process of creating new digital archives, including one covering CCSU's experience of the COVID-19 pandemic and another containing all photos and documents from CCSU's Veterans History Project.

In order to better support the creation of new digital archives in the future, we are also exploring the possibility of creating a new digitization lab in the library that would house a high-resolution overhead scanner, flatbed scanner, cameras, computer stations, and possibly other equipment such as 3D printers. This lab space would serve as a state-of-the-art preservation studio as well as a space for digital innovation and teaching using digital tools. We are currently researching the best options for this lab and are creating a preliminary budget with a view to pursing external grants to fund the creation of the space.



Screenshot of some of the Treasures of the Special Collections in CCSU's collection on CTDA



Mike Alewitz in front of one of his murals

In collaboration with the Art and History departments, the library recently applied for a grant to digitize the work of Emeritus Art Professor Mike Alewitz. The controversial painter has a wealth of photographs and other materials related to his time at CCSU, where he taught the country's only college class for mural painting. The grant will cover the costs of equipment and labor needed to scan and catalog Alewitz's archives related to his teaching career. At the end of the grant period, the library will host a symposium on Alewitz's work.

First-Year Experience Course Pilot Program

By Joy Hansen

Over two dozen sections of courses at CCSU across disciplines are designated as 'FYE', providing a targeted experience to address the needs of students in their first year. A team of faculty, instruction librarians, staff, and students have been working since pre-pandemic to review the FYE program with the goal of infusing high impact practices consistently into these courses and providing more support to first-year students as well as faculty teaching these courses. In Fall 2021, seven faculty members volunteered sections of their FYE classes to be part of the FYE-C pilot program (page 11). Instruction librarians were assigned to each section, collaborated with academic faculty, and visited classes to provide information literacy instruction. Also, librarians developed a customized research guide (libguides.ccsu.edu/firstyear), tutorials, appropriate in-class activities and assessment; and provided one-on-one student research support as needed.

The FYE-C pilot program will soon be assessed, modifications made, and the appropriate steps taken for a fuller rollout in Fall 2022.

The FYE-C Pilot Program (Fall 2021)

Professor	Course	Librarian
James Conway	PSY 112 Intro to Psychology	Susan Slaga-Metivier
Kristine Larsen	AST 113 The Cosmos	Joy Hansen
Kathy Martin-Troy	BMS 102 Intro to Biomolecular Science	Brian Matzke
Kimberly Meyer	CRM 110 Intro to Criminal Justice (2 sections)	Joy Hansen
Aimee Pozorski & Patrick Foster	HON 140 Writing & Research	Martha Kruy
Robbin Smith	PS 110 American Government	Jillian Maynard



2022 ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY RESEARCH AWARDS

By Susan Slaga-Metivier

The Elihu Burritt Library Research Awards recognize excellence in undergraduate and graduate research papers/projects as well as skill and creativity in the application of library services, resources, and collections. A **prize of $350** will be awarded to an undergraduate and graduate student during the 2022 spring semester at the University Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD). **Please note that for graduate students, this applies to class assignments and not the final program thesis/project.*

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be enrolled during the spring 2022 semester as a Central Connecticut State University student at any class level or discipline/major.
- Have completed their research paper or project for a credit course during the spring, summer, or fall semesters in 2021.
- Agree that the paper or project and application materials will be publicly displayed in the library's online collections.

For more information please go to:
library.ccsu.edu/services/award/application.php
or contact Susan Slaga-Metivier at slagas@ccsu.edu.

RESEARCH ON THE RUN

By Joy Hansen



Librarians in the Reference and Instruction Department presented a series of workshops designed to provide a quick overview of various research concepts for students.

Eighteen attendees learned about library resources, search techniques, APA/MLA citation basics and management tools, and source evaluation. Each workshop was held simultaneously in-person and online to accommodate all learners, and recordings and supplemental materials were posted to a special guide (libguides.ccsu.edu/workshopsfall21).

"I appreciated how the presenters were able to convey information briefly yet thoroughly and the topics were very relevant to my classwork. All of the staff were so helpful at answering questions and providing plenty of resources. Thank you for hosting these sessions!"

–A student attendee

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

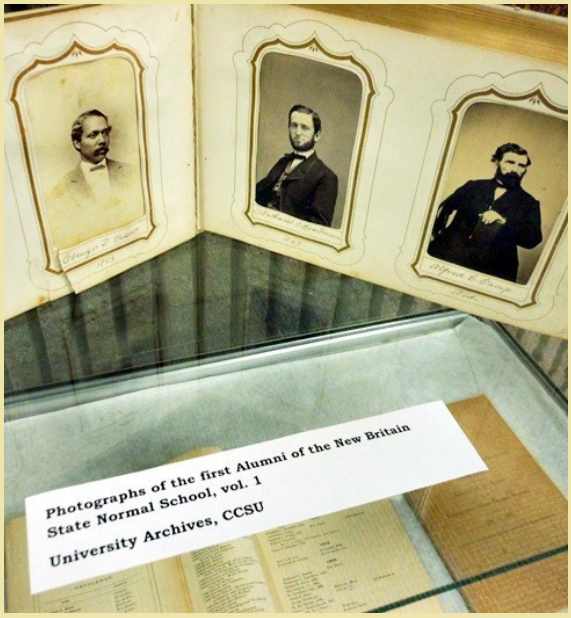
By Renata Vickrey

CCSU UNIVERSITY ARCHIVE

is an institutional repository of materials related to the history of the institution. The archive includes materials from the Connecticut State Normal School, opened in 1849, its later incarnations as the Teachers College of Connecticut and Central Connecticut State College, and since 1984, Central Connecticut State University.

The Archive contains official and historical records including documentation of institutional policies, operations of administrative offices, academic departments, student and faculty organizations, and various programs and special events.

The yearbooks can be found at: hdl.handle.net/11134/530002:yearbooks



Photographs of the first Alumni of the New Britain Normal School

LIBRARY-CLASSROOM CONNECTION

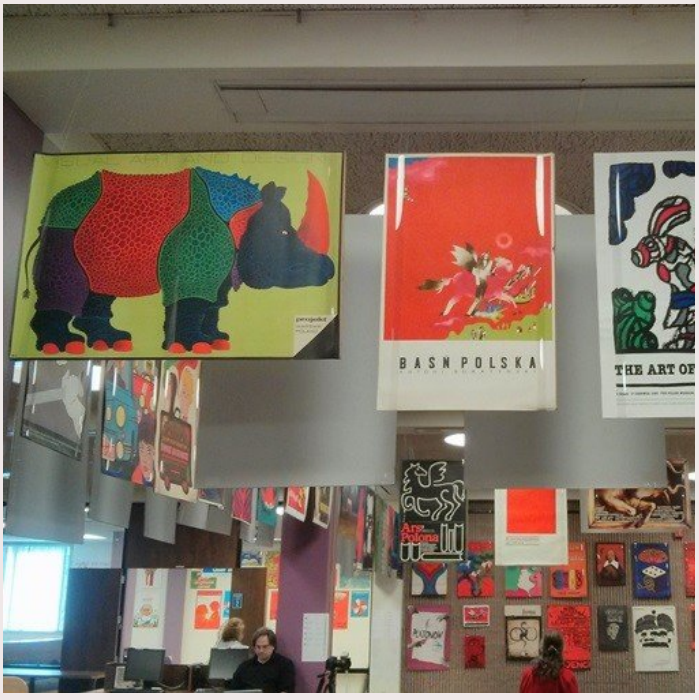
This semester, students from Dr. Leah Glaser's class in the Public History Program researched people that buildings on campus were named for. Students accessed archival materials from the photograph collection, campus publications, yearbooks, commencement programs, student newspapers, and the Hartford Courant historical database.

ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS cont.

THE CONNECTICUT POLISH AMERICAN ARCHIVE (CPAA)

contains materials related to the history of the Polish American community in the United States with special emphasis on those in Connecticut and New England. This archive provides material support for the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies at CCSU. The core of the collection includes records of Polish American organizations, societies and institutions, personal papers of prominent Polish Americans, and many smaller collections containing papers of local activists spanning several generations. The CPAA also holds a large collection of Polish American publications including books, anniversary booklets, newspapers, and bulletins. Among artifacts produced in Poland and donated to the archives are a collection of political posters and dissident publications from the 1970s and 1980s.

Most of the posters are digitized and available online at: hdl.handle.net/11134/530002:polishPosters



Posters from Poland on display

LIBRARY-CLASSROOM CONNECTION

For several years now, students from Dr. Jeanne Criscola's History of Design class have researched the Polish Poster collection for their term projects. The collection is impressive and contains about 600 posters.

ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS cont.

THE GLBTQ ARCHIVE

holds primary materials related to the struggle for gay rights. It includes a particularly strong collection of Connecticut materials that offer comprehensive coverage of local political and cultural history from the 1970s to present. The archive contains records of political lobbying efforts to overcome discrimination and achieve equal rights for gay and transgender people, records of organized support offered by various churches, records of health interventions during the AIDS epidemic, and records of the many cultural activities associated with the LGBTQ community.

The archive also includes collections of personal papers and some oral histories, many from local activists, and a large amount of historical periodicals, photographs, books, buttons, T- shirts, videos, and flyers.

Materials from the archives are frequently used by CCSU students and faculty to support their scholarship. The collection is well known among the LGBTQ community, both local and outside Connecticut.



Buttons in the GLBTQ Archive

This year, the GLBTQ Archive received papers from the estate of the late Jerimarie Liesegang, one of the most determined and successful transgender activists, recognized both locally and nationally. She was known as the mother of the Connecticut political transgender movement having founded It's Time, Connecticut and later, the Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition. Both groups advocated for the civil rights of the transgender community in Connecticut.



Jerimarie Liesegang

Many of the materials in GLBTQ Archive are available at: archives.library.wcsu.edu/caoSearch/repositories/ctnbt

LIBRARY-CLASSROOM CONNECTION

While working on her last big project, CT LGBTQ History 1960-2000, Jerimarie used our archival collections extensively. She shared her experiences with students from P r o f. William Mann's Sociology of Gender Studies class in 2019. In November 2020, she passed away. The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame recognized Jerimarie's pioneering work and selected her to be inducted to the 2021 Leaders for Social Justice.

For more information about CCSU's archival collections please contact:

Ewa Wolynska at: wolynska@ccsu.edu, 860 832-2086

or

Renata Vickrey at: vickreyr@ccsu.edu, 860 832-2085



THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORTERS AND DONORS OF THE ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY

By Renata Vickrey

I write to express our deepest thanks for your generous and continuous support of the Library. With your donations, we were able to supplement the library budget and purchase more textbooks, and additional printed and electronic resources.

Your donations do make a difference!
The Elihu Burritt Library staff wish you a very Happy Holidays!

If you plan to make an end-of-the year donation, you may do so online: ccsu.networkforgood.com/ and select Library. Or by contacting Renata Vickrey at vickreyr@ccsu.edu

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