In the month of October, staff at the J. Eugene Smith Library celebrated Banned Books Week and the freedom to read by hosting an event called 7 Days and Nights to Investigate, Navigate, Debate and Celebrate Banned Literature. The event held in the Paul Johnson Sr. Conference Room was organized to educate Eastern's community of learners on the topic of censorship and book banning attempts throughout the United States. Several Eastern professors and their students attended this informative event with over ninety in attendance. Guest speakers included Dr. Wendy J. Glenn, Professor in the UConn Neag School of Education who teaches courses in the theories and methods of teaching literature, writing, and language. Librarian Kara Gilbert, Director of the Children’s Department at the Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton, CT and Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Connecticut Library Association and Attorney Dan Barrett, ACLU of Connecticut’s legal director. Additionally, a panel of students from English 329, Adolescent Literature presented viewpoints from parents and others who censor books on the premise that they are protecting children. The panel was moderated by Professor Lisa Rowe Fraustino. Students who presented were Meaghan McFall Gorman, Cherie Green, and Kristen Howe. Following the event students participated in a “I Read Banned Books” contest. The winner of the competition was Hannah Watford who came dressed ready to impress in her Eastern sweatshirt. Her prize, a Selfie Stick.
Similar to Poltergeist, it involves a television set but no, there will be no séance because it’s already here! Could it be “Librarians” the TV series? Nope, that’s been on since 2014. How about the MTV competition show “Silent Library”? Thankfully no, that was cancelled in 2011. Well, I won’t hold you in suspense any longer because it’s actually our new television in the library. As an additional bonus to your library stays, we now have streaming cable in the multi-media reserves area on the second floor of the library. This 48-inch smart TV is our latest addition for events and keeping up to date on current events in the news. Enjoy the best full HD broadcasting experience as it delivers clear moving picture resolution with enriched colors. All programs are in closed caption. Stop in and unwind while you catch up on the latest news and weather reports in our new comfy layout. Ask at the Circulation desk to change the channel or how to find this newest addition to the library. Special thanks to Facilities, Library Director Pat Banach, Director of Media Services Nick Messina and Technical Support Engineer Mike Berlin.

MAC Lovers, Rejoice!

by Patricia S. Banach
Director of Library Services

The Library has just received three new Macintosh computers courtesy of University Information Technology Services (ITS). These three machines are now located on the third floor in the alcove behind the elevators. At this writing they still need a bit of final configuring by the ITS staff, but we expect they will be up and running by the time you read this article. Thanks very much to ITS for making these new machines available in the Library!
NOSTALGIA NIGHT, a way to celebrate childhood reading memories and bring together current and prospective members of Sigma Tau Delta

by Hope-Marie Cook, Head of Curriculum Center/Education Librarian and Dr. Allison Speicher, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Advisor to Sigma Tau Delta.

Students from all over campus gathered to support literacy while gaining members for the Alpha Epsilon chapter, just in time for National Picture Book Month. After all, C.S. Lewis once said “A children’s story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children’s story in the slightest.” Staff in the Curriculum Center agree with this sentiment and encourage everyone, not just children to come to the center to re-visit their favorite childhood book.

Sigma Tau Delta is an international English honor society, and our chapter, the Alpha Epsilon chapter, has struggled with an issue I imagine many other honor societies do as well: how to reconcile our mission of honoring the most accomplished students with what students actually want out of a student organization. Our student-leaders are committed to making Sigma Tau Delta more than just a résumé builder, but rather an organization that students look forward to joining, an organization that serves far more than the twenty or so English majors we induct each December.

Nostalgia Night was born of this impulse, conceived at a meeting of our leadership board, which includes Meaghan McFall Gorman, Seth McCullock, Mikayla Zagata, and Catherine Allegretti. The event seemed like a fun way to bring together current and prospective members, other English majors, and students outside the department to share our love of the written word. Our student-leaders, who cooked up the idea, wanted to help students get back to the pleasures of reading, so often lost in a flurry of exams and papers, and reconnecting with beloved childhood texts seemed like a great way to do so.

The staff at the Curriculum Center graciously agreed to host the event and helped us attract students to attend. Nostalgia Night was one of our most successful events to date, and it’s hopefully just the beginning of Sigma Tau Delta’s mission to become an organization that makes a difference in student life on our campus.

DIGITAL HISTORY, JUST A CLICK AWAY

by Tara L. Hurt, University Archivist
Head of Archives & Special Collections

Digital collections have and continue to enhance our teaching and research.

A new digital collection is now available through a joint project of the University of Houston, Chicago Historical Society, Museum of Fine Arts in Houston and the National Park Service. The collection provides access to primary sources, multimedia resources, curriculum based classroom activities, reference works, textbooks and much more. The material provides documents from 1490 to the present and it can be accessed via a clickable timeline feature as well as by clickable historical eras, topics, primary sources, oral histories, music and exhibitions. Citing from this source is very easy with a built-in guide to cite the sources you locate and use in your research.

When you get a chance be sure to click on the Digital History link on the Library History Lib Guide http://easternct.libguides.com/history or by going directly to http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu

Digital collections have and continue to enhance our teaching and research.
PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY

By designating your tax deductible contribution in one of the categories below, you will be supporting the collections and services of the J. Eugene Smith Library at Eastern Connecticut State University.

_____ Friends of Eastern $50-99
_____ The Century Club $100-299
_____ The President's Circle $300-499
_____ The 1889 Society $500-999
_____ F. R. Nobel Associates $1,000-4,999
_____ Tower Society $5,000 and above
_____ Other contribution amount

Total amount enclosed: _______________________________  Today's date: ______________________________________

I would like to make this donation in honor of: ______________________________________________________________

I would like to make this donation in memory of: ______________________________________________________________

The library will gift plate a book in your name, or in honor or memory of someone you designate, for a donation of $50 or more.

Name: _______________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: (optional): _____________________________________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________________

E-mail (optional): _______________________________________________________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________________________ State: __________  Zip: _________________

Please make checks payable to the: ECSU Foundation, Inc., and send your donation with this form to the: ECSU Foundation, Inc., Eastern Connecticut State University, 83 Windham St., Willimantic, CT 06226.