Top Ten Reasons Why NELLS2017 was an Amazing Experience!
By Scott Brill, CLA Treasurer

1. The week-long symposium created a “retreat-like” feeling where we could fully concentrate on the subject of leadership.

2. The venue, (Rolling Ridge Conference Center in North Andover, MA), a turn-of-the-20th century mansion surrounded by beautifully landscaped lawns, leading to a wooded area filled with nature trails and stone mazes, alongside beautiful Lake Cochichewick, was the perfect place for relaxing one’s mind, taking walks alone, in pairs or with a group, admiring nature and working in outdoor breakout sessions.

3. The “after-hours” entertainment was varied and fun! From the Tuesday Trivia night (which my team won – but the competition was fierce!) to the bonfire (including S’mores, good conversation and insect repellent) to the myriad of board games (including a wildly funny session of Cards Against Humanity) to wide-ranging and often hilarious discussions in the “drawing-room.”

4. The food – breakfast, lunch and dinner – was delicious, nourishing and plentiful along with a seemingly endless supply of snacks during the day sessions.

5. The moderator of the symposium, Maureen Sullivan, led the entire week imparting expert knowledge from a lifetime of library work, giving us practical examples and templates to problem-solve and listening to all our questions and comments with caring and concern so that she could provide excellent feedback and counsel.

6. Each session of the symposium was filled with valuable and usable learning tools and resources.

7. NELLS provided ample opportunity to connect with other library professionals from every state in New England in a relaxed atmosphere where we could bounce off ideas, relate library stories and bond over shared experiences.

8. A members-only NELLS2017 Facebook page was created as a way for those who
You are currently a graduate student at SCSU? How far along are you in your studies? What are some classes you've taken or are currently taking?

My coursework will be completed by the end of the spring semester, so I'm pretty far along. As for classes, I'm taking cataloging and classification and grant writing as well as the internship at the State Library.

What led you into the field of librarianship?

I'm a historian by training. After I received my doctorate, I taught at higher ed institutions in West Virginia, Texas, and Connecticut for a total of sixteen years. Although I loved teaching, students, research, and writing, history teaching jobs in higher education are scarce, particularly in New England. After teaching as an adjunct faculty member for four years, I decided that enough was enough and I'd try something else. That led me to library science. The organization of information has always fascinated me, and I've always been intrigued by archival work, particularly in historically oriented collections. After being a researcher for over 20 years, I wanted to see what it's like on the other side of the desk. Thus, here I am!

How did you come to be interning at the CSL?

The MLIS program at SCSU has been revamped. Beginning this fall, all new students in the program must complete a 150-hour internship in a library or libraries. Since I entered the program in January 2016, I'm not required to complete an internship, but I wanted to get actual library experience. Given my skill set and career objectives, my advisor, Arlene Bielefield, suggested that I try to do an internship at the State Library. She worked it out with Ken Wiggin, the Connecticut State Librarian, and I've been there since August.

What are some of the projects you've worked on in your internship?

I've worked mostly on the Connecticut in World War I commemoration that's underway. While in history & genealogy, I researched the backgrounds of one British and one American veteran of the conflict. I'm at the State Archives now, where I'm processing a small collection of documents related to the 102nd U. S. Infantry, 26th "Yankee" Division, which was comprised of Connecticut National Guard regiments. It's very difficult to work expeditiously because I catch myself reading many of the documents, especially the operational orders from the AEF (American Expeditionary Forces) all the way down to companies in the 102nd. I've also worked a little in Government Documents and in the Law & Legislative section of the State Library.
took part to keep in touch and interact with each other long after NELLS.

9. The symposium focused on helping us each as individuals to discover and assess our own unique leadership capabilities and potential helping us to create a personal plan to prepare for the future.

10. All those who took part in NELLS2017, (the mentors, organizers, participants and moderator) are now linked in a vital way to share resources, to provide support for each other and to promote the essential need for libraries in New England and beyond.

Message from the President

September is normally a busy time for libraries, with students and faculty returning to school and academic libraries and public libraries switching gears from summer reading programs to homework help and pre-school story times. Add to this the continued uncertainty about the state budget, and you have a very chaotic time for libraries and librarians.

But a quick scan of the headlines should make all of us feel very grateful we are dealing with these issues instead of the devastation that has hit so many in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose and Maria and the Mexican earthquake. Our colleagues in Texas, Florida, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Mexico are coping with collapsed or damaged libraries, disrupted infrastructure, destroyed homes and in some cases lost lives.

To help support the recovery effort, the Texas Library Association and the Florida Library Association have set up disaster relief funds. Donations will go to assist libraries impacted by the storms. Additionally, the American Library Association is partnering with Florida International University Library and its Digital Library of the Caribbean to help support the recovery effort in the Caribbean. Tax deductible contributions to ALA’s Disaster Relief Fund will go to help rebuild libraries like the Philipsburg Jubilee Public Library on St. Martin, which was damaged beyond repair. Learn more on ALA’s webpage: http://bit.ly/2f09etW

On a happier note and closer to home, this is also the time when many CLA sections offer their fall programs. Depending on when you are reading this, some of these programs may have already happened, but be sure to keep an eye on the CLA calendar (http://ctlibraryassociation.org/calender.php) and your email inbox for a number of exciting, educational and fun programs organized by CLA sections and committees. And remember that discounted registration rates for these programs are always available for CLA members, so if you haven’t joined yet, or have let your membership lapse, now is a great time to remedy that.

Glenn Grube is the director of the Avon Free Public Library.
**Movin’ On Up!**

from the Career Development Committee

Q I recently applied for a job at my university. The entire process was online. It’s been a week, and I haven’t heard anything at all! What should my next step be?

From Carl Antonucci, director of the Elihu Burrit Library at Central CT State University:

A In the academic world a week is not that long. Many times it does take a very long time for an applicant to hear. My advice would be to wait another week and then email the HR department at the university and simply ask if they have received all of their materials.

From Randi Ashton-Pritting, director, Harrison Libraries, University of Hartford:

A Each academic institution is slightly different when it comes to applying (either in paper or electronic) for positions. With our institution, our human resources suggests that an applicant call at the two week mark.

How our system works – applicants electronically send in their application packet. They will receive a notification thanking them for applying. As the status changes they will either receive a phone call to schedule an interview, sent an email notification that the process is ongoing or continuing, or receive an email stating they were not selected for an interview. Sometimes this process can take weeks depending on the candidate pool. Many supervisors like to have a large enough pool of applications to help make better decisions.

Do you have a question about your career that you would like to see answered in the next issue of CLA Today? Send it to: editor@ctlibraryassociation with “Movin on Up” in the subject line.
What are your long-term career goals?
I'd like to be as flexible as I can long term, but in the best of all possible worlds, I would love to work at a research-oriented facility, whether an institution such as the State Library, colleges/universities, or even a special library. If I worked in a town's public library, working at the adult reference desk would be ideal. I enjoy helping users find books and other materials that stimulate or challenge them.

What are your go-to library-related websites?
Go-to websites: State Library; Buley Library at SCSU; Library of Congress; CLA; and CLC.

What books are on your nightstand reading/to be read pile?
Current reading: Pershing's Crusaders, which is a social history of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. I'm also chipping away at Moby Dick one chapter at a time.

CLA Upcoming Fall 2017 Programs

Wednesday, 10/18/2017
Technical Services Section fall program
Farmington Library
9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Should It Stay Or Should It Go: Right-sizing (Weeding) Your Collection

Friday, 10/27/2017
CLA Support Staff (CLASS) Professional Development Conference
Welcoming Innovation with CLASS
University of Hartford, Harry Jack Gray Center
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 11/15/2017
YA Meetup
Wallingford Public Library
10 a.m.—3 p.m. (9:30 coffee and networking)

SAVE THE DATE:
The 2018 Annual CLA Conference will be held April 23-24 at the Danbury Crowne Plaza
People in the News

The staff and library board of Acton Public Library, Old Saybrook, regret to announce that library director Michele Van Epps passed away Saturday, Aug. 19, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Michele started at the library in 2004 and became the library director in 2010. She was devoted to Acton Public Library and gave all she had, with dedication and commitment and an incredibly positive attitude. Michele was a truly fine person, a kind spirit with a brave heart and tremendous courage. She will be deeply missed by all.

After 9 years as the Stratford Library’s head of information and technology services, Diane Kurtz will be retiring on Nov. 10. Diane began her library career in technical services at the Milford Public Library, and served at Bridgeport Public Library for 16 years, in historical collections and as a branch manager at the Newfield and Old Mill Green Branches. Her colleagues at the Stratford Library will miss her technical expertise, her bottomless supply of craft materials, her calm in the face of crisis, and her enthusiasm for helping people.

The Avon Free Public Library children’s and teen services department is pleased to announce two new employees: Elise Montes and Amanda Stern. Elise is currently an MLS student at URI, and has begun gaining valuable hands-on experience as a children’s specialist. Amanda Stern is the school media specialist at the Wheeler Clinic and will be joining the Avon Library during the after-school hours to share her passion and enthusiasm for books, reading and programming.

Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., former access services evening supervisor STACKS maintenance coordinator at the Burritt Library at Central Connecticut State University, is now a full-time doctoral student at the UConn School of Social Work. Alberto thanks his colleagues and friends at the Burritt Library and CLA Board of Directors for all their encouragement and support as he takes this next step in his career. He will remain a CLA member and advocate for libraries and library staff everywhere.

At the West Haven Library, Julia Dandio started as a children’s librarian back in June, and Sara White is our new adult services/programming librarian who started in September.

The town council ratified the appointment of a new director of the Cromwell Belden Public Library. Kara Canney, a Wallingford native, comes to Cromwell from Trumbull, where she was the children’s librarian for the past 13 years.

Russell Library director and CEO, Matt Poland, has been elected vice chairperson of the CT State Library. He retired from Russell on Friday, Oct. 6. Brandie Doyle will be the interim director and CEO while a nationwide search is done for a new director and CEO.

Megan Dean is the new director at the Bethel Public Library.

Beth Grimes has been promoted as head of teen services at the Stratford Library. Grimes, a graduate of Fairfield University with a BA in English and Studio Art and an MA in teaching and foundations, replaces Lucretia Duwel who recently retired from the position. Grimes is also a graduate of Southern Connecticut State University with an MLS in Information and Library Science. For the past five years, she has worked at the Stratford Library as a reference librarian.

Mary Lee Bulat, children’s librarian at the Harwinton Public Library, retired in August. Mary began a long career in librarianship as a page at the Dinard Library at the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, where she attended college. Mary has worked in several Connecticut libraries, including 10 years spent at the director of the Beardsley & Memorial Library in Winsted. Mary has been the children’s librarian in Harwinton since 2007.
Danielle D. Valenzano is this year’s winning recipient of the Caroline Hewins Scholarship Award presented by Hartford Public Library. Danielle, a children’s library assistant at Milford Public Library, is currently enrolled in the MLIS program at Valdosta State University. Shown here with Danielle are Bridget Quinn-Carey (l), CEO of HPL and Leticia Cotto (r), HPL’s customer experience officer.

Nearly 65 children’s librarians and library staff enjoyed the 2017 annual fall meeting on Oct. 13. They enjoyed a conversation about music technology and useful apps to use with children of all ages with Turtle Dance music educator Matt Mazur, discussed the local happenings of the state library with children’s services consultant Linda Williams, schemed about building escape rooms with librarians Marissa Bucci and Nicole Scherer, and found out the many benefits of becoming CLA members. The group also met for an hour at mini-roundtables to network and discuss common themed benefits and challenges of working in youth services. If you’re interested in joining the children’s section, please contact co-chairs Danielle Valenzano and Kari Hamad. (Pictured Mr. Matt from Turtle Dance Music)
Registration is LIVE for the annual CLASS Conference, Welcoming Innovation with CLASS! Check out our exciting list of workshops and keynote speakers, Library Innovation Consultant Maxine Bleiweis and author Jean Baur with very special guest Bella, therapy dog extraordinaire! Workshops include fake news, archives, laughter yoga, career development, library origami, and much more! $50 for CLA members and $60 for non-CLA members. Register by October 20 - we meet maximum capacity pretty quickly!