Fourth Annual Local Poets event packs Dezember Room

Poets read their work in a crowded Dezember Reading Room at the fourth annual local poets’ event the library holds each April.

Poet Matthew Woodman, the English professor who organized and led the event, introduced the more than a dozen poets, each of whom read two poems organized around the theme of “work.”

Woodman thanked Library Dean Curt Asher for his support of poetry and said that the library has become a central place for the promotion and support of poets and authors, with readings throughout the year and a creative writing workshop each summer.

All the submitted poems at the April 25th event were published in a book entitled Writing Work: A Collection of Poems from the Southern San Joaquin Valley. The book is available for free to Stiern Library Associates, who can get one by contacting the library administration office at (661) 654-3042.

“The local poets’ event is always one of the best events of the year,” Asher said.

See Poets, Page 4

New library system will ease and expand the search process

Roll out scheduled for summer

The CSU is implementing a shared library system known as CSU+ that will allow all 23 university libraries to manage hundreds of millions of books and articles and easily share resources with one another.

CSU+ is going to change the idea of a “library collection.” While each library will still maintain its own collection, the physical resources in all the CSU libraries will be easily available to every student.

In other words, CSUB students can access the holdings at campuses like San Jose State or San Diego and have them shipped to their campus. This differs from the current Interlibrary Loan system in that the mediation by Interlibrary Loan staff will no longer be needed for intersystem lending.

The library catalog will contain records for nearly every book in the system, rather than just those at CSUB. One way of looking at the change is that

See System, Page 3

Library renovation continues

Two generous legacy gifts are helping make it possible to modernize the Walter W. Stiern Library with new group study spaces, quiet individual study areas, gallery space, and archival and media areas.

The legacy gifts—which are gifts people leave to the library as part of their estate—making this work possible were left to the library by Peter Harbach, who died in January 2015, and Lois Chaney, who died in November 2015.

The library began the multi-phase renovation last year by adding 97 new individual spaces on the first floor.

Students have been longing for additional study space for years and, as the student population has grown, the need has increased exponentially. Interviews with
Dr. Jihan Zakarriya, a Fulbright scholar, spoke in the Dezember Reading Room in April about Islamic fundamentalism in Arabic literature. She is a lecturer at Beni-Suef University, Egypt, and received a Fulbright Visiting Scholar Fellowship at the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan.

The library curated a collection of sketches and sculptures by Dr. Mustafah Dhada for an exhibit in the library held during spring semester. Dr. Dhada, in addition to his professorship in history at CSUB, is an artist of some renown and a Fellow in the Royal Society of Arts.

The exhibit, entitled “Trauma and Healing,” brought five sculptures to the library and 25 sketches to the Wall Gallery on the first floor. The one representational piece, “Bruce, the Librarian,” is a bust of the archivist who helped him through four decades of historical research at Oxford. All the remaining pieces are abstracts of the human form, in a style Dr. Dhada describes as “Sensuous Abstractionism.”

Dhada, who was born in Mozambique under Portuguese colonial rule, experienced trauma and violence early in his life, and his art attempts to come to terms with mass violence and the resilience of the human spirit.

Dhada spent several years in Europe, and studied in the United Kingdom. His art was influenced by the work of August Rodin and Henry Moore.

Dhada’s work has been exhibited in Mozambique, Portugal, Spain, and in Atlanta, Chicago, and San Diego. He also holds a Research Associateship in Colonialism and Post-Colonialism at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. As a historian, he specializes in Early Islam and in Colonial Mass Violence in Africa.

The library offers venues for a variety of exhibits. The next exhibit on the Wall Gallery, scheduled for fall, will be Wildlife of CSUB, featuring the work of local photographers.

Renovation (Cont’d from page 1)

students that the dean and a volunteer researcher conducted in early 2012 found that students identified their priority needs as longer hours and more individual and group study space.

Student groups have reiterated the importance of these priorities on many occasions in numerous forums since then.

One of the challenges of library construction is timing. The library rarely closes for breaks and is open most nights and weekends. The Peter R. Harbach Study Area was started last summer and completed during winter break between Christmas Eve and New Year’s Day.

The Lois and Homer Chaney Reading Area, also on the first floor, is nearing completion and should be finished this summer.

The renovations provide wall space for exhibits.

On the second floor, the library is working with an architectural firm to develop a master plan for a 100-person glass-walled group study area that will be modifiable with moveable furniture to accommodate many small groups; an honors study area; and a small recording studio for conducting oral histories.

The third and fourth floors will see the construction of walls to separate many new quiet areas from many new group study areas.

The upgrades library will provide ample book shelving for the its large and comprehensive book collection, while at the same time offering students who live and work in a digital environment the types of spaces they need to succeed.
Writer in Residence Brendan Constantine offers poignant poetry performance, opportunity to learn

Named 2017 Walter Stiern Library PG&E Writer in Residence in January, Constantine is one of California’s best poets, and is well known for riveting performances. He teaches at the Winward School and is at Venice’s Beyond Baroque. Constantine has served as a teacher of poetry in local schools and colleges for the last eighteen years. In addition, he brings poetry workshops to hospitals, foster care centers, and shelters for the homeless.

His books include Calamity Joe (2012), Dementia, My Darling (2016), Birthday Girl with Possum (2011), and Letters to Guns (2009), all of which are held in Stiern Library. His work has appeared in many well-known literary journals, most notably, Virginia Quarterly Review, Ploughshares, and Ninth Letter. Constantine also regularly volunteers with organizations like the Art of Elysium and is currently working with the Craft & Folk Art Museum of Los Angeles on a project that invites established and emerging authors to bear upon changing exhibits.

“Brendan is an incredible poet and a great performer and we are very fortunate to have him here with us for a couple of days. Our students and local writers have an opportunity to be mentored by someone who has achieved a lot of success as a writer,” said Library Dean Curt Asher.

The creative writing workshop will allow Constantine to work with participants to develop an original piece of writing (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, etc.), focusing on the creative process and overcoming writer’s block. This professional writing course is for writers at all levels. It offers techniques for stimulating creative thought and discussion, guides for interpreting and understanding poetry, and a chance to create new work.

“Thanks to the generosity of PG&E, we’re able to bring Brendan to work with our local community of writers for a free workshop that anywhere else would be very expensive,” Asher added.

Constantine is the fifth writer and first poet to serve as the library’s writer in residence. Prior writers were Angie Chau, Marissa Silver, John Hampsey, and Brian Evenson.

System (Cont’d from page 1)

Each library user will now have one big collection of materials from all the CSU campuses to choose from.

“This project will definitely change the world of the CSU libraries. Both technology and policy will never be the same,” CSUB Project Director and Librarian Amanda Grombly said.

Additionally, the system will allow for efficiencies in book selection. Librarians will work to avoid excessive duplication of materials from one library to the next. Internally, the work flow will be altered, which is giving libraries across the system opportunities to realign staff duties for more efficient service.

Another advantage of the system is the new interface, OneSearch, which will search across all CSUB print and online materials to retrieve articles, eBooks, book titles and other resources in a single search. Users will be able to control their searches in new ways.

For library employees, the system will change the way items are billed and the ways in which materials are coded and organized in the system. In this shared system, all the data will reside in the cloud, which means that local servers will not need to be managed and storage capabilities will be boosted exponentially.

Ex Libris, the parent company of the system, has provided the library system at CSUB since 2003, so there is some continuity in the transition.
Poets (Cont’d from page 1)

“There is a very active group of local poets in Bakersfield.”

The theme was interpreted in a variety ways. Kern County Poet Laureate Don Thompson, for example, read his poem “Condors,” which is deeply grounded in metaphoric natural images, while other writers approached the theme more literally. Dr. Tim Vivian, an Episcopal priest, wrote about the difficult and beautiful work that takes place in the life of a church parish. Others wrote odes about people and professions, all employing a variety of styles.

“In my opinion, poems are words at the edge of human expression, telling us things that can’t otherwise be expressed except as poetry,” Asher said.

Woodman encourages all poets to read their work at public forums.

“Students who read their work in public as part of a poetry reading are able to voice and give voice to their unique perspectives,” he said. “I encourage all writers and students of writing to seek out opportunities for public readings in order to recognize that they are members of a creative community and to use their experiences as creative momentum to inspire them to write more, to share more, to experience more.”

Provost Jenny Zorn, who spoke at the event, congratulated the poets for their writing and commented on the courage it takes to share work publicly.

In addition to Woodman, Thompson, and Vivian, other poets who read or contributed to the book included Greg Bolanos, Annis Cassells, Portia Choi, Sunnee Crider, Priti Devaprakash, Erika Diaz, Jeff Eagan, Shelley Evans, Jack Hernandez, Anke Hodenpijl, Catherine Abbey Hodges, Anthony Jauregui, Emily Johnston, Dave Kettler, Mateo Lara, Rose Lester, Marit MacArthur, Shaina Rae Panga, Chyna Parker, Shelby Pinkham, Nashwa Rafiq, Diana Ramirez, Bailey Russell, Sidney Russell, Mark Saso, and Jana Lee Wong.

Immigration activity by selected nationalities such as those from Ireland, Mexico, France, and Spain. During the process students identified Tomás Castro. This name may sound familiar to you if you have ever driven down Castro Lane in Bakersfield. Tomás came to Kern County in 1867, declared his intention to become a U.S. citizen in 1872, and was naturalized in 1875. Born in Banamichi, Mexico, the 1870 census shows Tomás living with his wife Conception and six children. Once established in Kern County, Tomás became very successful in ranching, owning over 60 acres north of Bakersfield. He also owned a second ranch on Mt. Breckenridge. Tomás died in 1900 and is buried at Union Cemetery.

There are many other stories waiting to be uncovered. Tomás Castro’s story and many others are available in the Historical Research Center. Come visit us! You never know what you’ll discover!
Library screens Untouchable, a film about sex offender registry

The library brought attorney, activist and filmmaker David Feige from his home in the Bronx to the Dezember Reading Room to screen his new documentary, Untouchable.

The powerful film examines the issue of the sex offender registry by intertwining the stories of the victims with those who have been branded as sex offenders.

“It is a film that pushes viewers toward an uncomfortable place,” Feige said.

A panel featuring Feige, criminal justice professors Reem Abu-Lughod, Doris McPhetridge, and sociologist Doreen Anderson-Facile answered questions from the large and engaged crowd on March 6.

Library opens students’ eyes to history careers

Archivist Chris Livingston supervised students enrolled in History 4860 — Applied History — during Spring semester.

Students were exposed to the variety of tasks, problems, and challenges faced by archivists. The group learned about archival appraisal and processing as well as how to complete minor preservation tasks such as document repair.

Students were also exposed to issues faced by collections curators at regional institutions such as the Kern County Museum and Kern County Library.

A highlight of the visit to the Kern County Museum was a service learning project where students assisted in the arrangement of a student newspaper from a school with a hundred-year-old history.

“I really appreciated and valued the hands-on experience of the class,” student Ricardo Gonzalez said. “I was also exposed to the variety of jobs one can enter with a history degree.”

Affordable Learning Solutions awards economics department $10,000

Librarian Sandra Bozarth, who leads the textbook alternative program for the library, worked with a committee of organizers to hold a special recognition event. At the luncheon event in the Dezember Reading Room, the Economics Department was awarded $10,000 from a special grant Bozarth secured to encourage further alternative text adoptions.

Bozarth secured funding from Affordable Learning Solutions for the fourth year in a row. The library’s primary push is encouraging faculty to adopt low-cost alternatives to expensive textbooks.

Studies have shown that high textbook costs interfere with students’ ability to graduate. The library works with faculty on the alternative textbook initiative, which saved students hundreds of thousands of dollars last year in textbook costs.

Bozarth presented the check to the Economics Department, which led the adoption, by using the OpenStax textbook alternative, a low-cost-for-print-and-no-cost-for-eBook set of high quality texts published by Rice University. The adoption of this text saved students $100,203.00 in six class sections.

New database benefits business students, others

Business students will not be the only ones to benefit from the library’s acquisition of the IBISWorld last month. The research database allows students to do sophisticated business analysis and develop industry insights, as well as garner information for career exploration.

“IBISWorld is an extremely valuable source,” Business Librarian Johanna Alexander said. “It will help every business and economic student at CSUB and other students as well.”

Any student wanting to find in-depth information about large and small industries in the United States will find a wealth of information including Porter Model Analyses, financial ratios, and much more, she added.

The library has been eying the database since 2013, but never had the budget to subscribe. Fortunately, through a partnership with the School of Business, and a private donor, and working with Dr. Mark Evans and Interim Dean, Dr. John Stark, the library was able to add IBISWorld to its database collection.

Library offers opportunities to practice language skills

On Thursdays through Spring quarter, language learners of all levels met in the Abkin Room of the Library to share a conversation over lunch and to work through topics in Spanish or French.

Modern language professor Lena Taub, who teaches both Spanish and French, worked with the library to establish lunch conversations in languages her students are trying to learn. The lunchtime conversations were French one week and Spanish the next and open to the campus.

Attendance at the lunches varied week to week. Students, faculty, and staff from beginner to expert developed listening and speaking skills in spontaneous conversation sessions.

The library and Dr. Taub intend to establish a similar language lunch schedule in the fall, after a break for summer.
For Dr. Tony Deeths, life has been a journey of exploration and discovery, and that’s why he gives to Stiern Library.

“I have very diverse tastes. Right now, I am reading books on Italian Renaissance art and archaeology and a book of fiction. I love to read,” the retired radiologist said.

A world traveler, a builder of intricate wooden scale-model ships, a connoisseur of fine wines, and a collector with eclectic tastes, Dr. Deeths understands the power of discovery and how it can change the direction of a life.

At Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore as an undergraduate, Dr. Deeths spent a lot of time probing through the holdings of that world-renowned academic library, where he stumbled across little-known books that would help direct his many interests.

“The essence of a library is being able to find the gem you didn’t expect to find,” he said.

The son of a physician, Dr. Deeths was born in Kansas, but moved to California as a small boy. He spent his formative years on a semi-rural four acres in the Northridge area. After Johns Hopkins, he attended medical school at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

He interned with NASA during the first moon landing, then completed his general internship at Los Angeles General. His residency in radiology was in Milwaukee.

“Radiology is really the center of medicine,” he said. “I was interested in it because I liked the technology and because it is always changing. There’s always something to learn to keep it interesting.”

Dr. Deeths taught at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis for two years, then joined a private practice in Missouri before returning west to practice radiology in Bakersfield in 1991. He and his wife Mimi, whom he met during medical school, raised four children together.

“Mimi was the social one,” Dr. Deeths said. “I just tagged along and shared in her aura.”

He lost Mimi to cancer in 2004. She left behind a legacy of deep caring and profound faith. Her book, A Life Worth Living: One Woman's Story of Living with Cancer through Love, Support, and Faith, published posthumously, is held by Stiern Library.

Dr. Deeths established a memorial fund in his wife’s name, which now goes to the library. He said he gives to the library because it provides him with a way to reach all CSUB students.

“The memorial evolved that way because I knew that giving to the library allowed me to help a lot of students,” he said. “I like what a gift to the library has to offer.”