Archivist to address criminologists over 80-year-old murder case

When Archives Librarian Chris Livingston came across some graphic black and white crime scene photos while processing a large collection of court documents held by Stiern Library’s Historical Research Center, he didn’t immediately know what he had.

It wasn’t until he began to read the associated police report that he came to realize that he was holding an important clue in one of Kern County’s most famous mysteries – the murder of Mathias Warren.

Mathias Warren was the father of the Chief Justice and former California Governor Earl Warren. Earl Warren grew up in Bakersfield, graduated from Kern County High School (now Bakersfield...
**One Hundred Years later: Remembering the Great War**

World War I devastated Europe, crippled the United States, and killed millions, but it also inspired art, technology, and international cooperation.

The Walter Stiern Library commemorated the centennial of the close of the Great War with events and exhibits.

“The Armistice ended the fighting, but World War I’s impact still resonates,” said Library Dean Curt Asher.

World War I was the first mechanized war, the first to use airplanes, and tanks in combat, and the first war to deploy chemical weapons. It was also the first war to medically recognize the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, then called Shell Shock.

There were an estimated 19 million civilian and military deaths attributed to WWI and 10 million military deaths. By some estimates, a quarter of Britain’s men of fighting age, died in the Great War.
The war gave voice to some of the greatest poets of the 20th century. Poets Wilfred Owen and Rupert Brooke, for example, were both killed in combat while war survivors like Ernest Hemingway (a poet, best remembered for his novels and short stories) and Siegfried Sassoon incorporated their war experiences into their writing. On November 7, local poets, faculty, administrators, and students remembered the war with readings from the writers of that period, a literary era which was balanced between Victorian and modernist ideas and was a precursor to the disillusionment of the 1920s.

The reading in the Dezember Room drew a surprisingly large audience. The event was organized by professor Matthew Woodman, who is a poet and CSUB Lecturer of the Year.

Warren (Cont’d from page 1)

High) in 1908 and then, after earning a law degree from Berkeley, served as District Attorney of Alameda County from 1925 until 1938, California Attorney General from 1939 until 1943, Governor of California from 1943 to 1953, and Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court from 1953 to 1969.

Earl Warren’s father, Mathias “Matt” Warren, was a Bakersfield businessman and real estate investor who was bludgeoned to death in his home on Niles Street in May 1938 by an unknown assailant.

While reviewing the case file, Livingston came across hearsay evidence from the chief investigator’s report indicating that Matt Warren’s business associate, Ed Regan, had confessed to the murder before his death six years after Warren’s murder. The information, long buried in an obscure file, convinced Livingston that Regan, a prime suspect, was the killer.

Warren had been murdered in the kitchen but was mysteriously found the next morning in his bed. Livingston teamed up with criminologist, Gregory Laskowski, who studied the crime scene photos and performed a blood splatter analysis to determine what happened. His finding? Warren had been dragged to his bed by the killer.

Now Livingston and Laskowski are partnering to present their discoveries to the California Association of Criminologists in May and the American Association of Criminologists in Reno this summer.

Livingston, who worked in law enforcement before becoming a librarian and holds advanced degrees in both history and library science, said that a good librarian needs the skills of the good investigator.

“We pull together the best available evidence to help answer questions. We never know where what we find will lead,” he said.

WWI (Cont’d from page 2)

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In the Historical Research Center on the second floor, an exhibit constructed by students under the leadership of librarian Chris Livingston examines the war through images, documents, and artifacts. The exhibit, entitled In the Trenches: The War to End All Wars, 1914-1918, will remain up until June 2019.

Photographs and poems from WWI are exhibited on Wall Gallery in the reference area on the first floor.

A conference and a year-long commemoration were part of an overall campus and community remembrance orchestrated by the Public History Institute (PHI). The PHI is led by Dr. Miriam Vivian of the history department. Historians, librarians, archivists, and others form the backbone of the PHI and encourage public dissemination of historical information in ways that appeal to the community.

Dr. Diane M.T. North, a professor at the University of Maryland and one of the nation’s leading World War I scholars, was the keynote speaker at the PHI’s conference. Dr. North spoke in the library’s Dezember Reading Room on October 13. Dr. North’s talk focused on the effects of the war on civil rights. The PHI brought Dr. North to campus and the library and the history department cosponsored the talk.

“[President Woodrow] Wilson’s desire to make the world safe for democracy—and indeed to make a name for himself on the international stage—left a destructive legacy that haunts the nation today,” said keynote speaker at the Public History Institute’s World War I conference Dr. Diane M.T. North. The Walter Stiern Library helped cosponsor the event. North is the author of California at War: The State and the People during World War I. At 11 a.m. on Sunday, November 11, bells in churches across town and at the Kern County Museum were rung 21 times to commemorate the Armistice and all veterans.

This World War I recruiting poster was part of the yearlong exhibit on the Great War, commemorating the century since Armistice. On the wall gallery, World War I poets were commemorated.
Five former faculty inducted into Hall of Fame

Colleagues, friends, family and students honored five professors at the second annual Faculty Hall of Fame induction ceremony and luncheon this spring in the library. Three of the inductions were posthumous.

Drs. Jeanne Harrie and Helia Corral were inducted before an overflow crowd in the Dezember Reading Room in the library, as were deceased professors Edwin Sasaki, Marc Thomas, and Gary Kessler. The Faculty Hall of Fame honors CSUB professors whose legacy to their profession and their students is profound and everlasting. The library started the Hall of Fame last year with funding support from the Provost’s Office.

Dr. Helia Corral’s many supporters cheered the much-loved, retired Spanish professor, whose dedication to her students is boundless. Her nominator and former student, Mariel Montelongo, described the ways that Dr. Corral guided students’ lives through her teaching and counsel, and opened their eyes to new worlds through her love of Spanish literature and by taking them to cultural events and sites around the state and even around the world. Dr. Corral started many clubs and groups in town and on campus and has devoted herself to sharing her appreciation for Latino culture and the arts. An immigrant herself, Dr. Corral is involved with a variety of international organizations. She spread CSUB’s name across the globe and presented her research at many U.S. and international conferences. Dr. Corral also founded the Hermes Spanish language literary journal on campus.

Dr. Jeanne Harrie “broke ceilings and established trails for future women faculty” during her 40 years as a history professor at CSUB, said Dr. Miriam Raub Vivian in her nomination remarks. For 13 of those years, Dr. Harrie was the only woman in the department. A rigorous teacher and specialist in Early Modern Europe, she challenged her students by engaging them in the complexities of European history. A renowned scholar with academic articles in top journals, 12 research awards and two National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships, Dr. Harrie led her department as chair for 12 years, served as Assistant Dean of Arts and Humanities twice, and coordinated the Social Studies teaching credential for 20 years. “It is working with the students that I treasure the most. They challenged me to become a better teacher, open my mind to new ideas and experiences, and honor the sacrifices so many of them made to get a university education,” Dr. Harrie commented.

The late Dr. Edwin Sasaki was such a widely respected leader that he was called upon to chair half a dozen different departments and to serve in many administrative appointments, including Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Interim Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Programs, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. As a child during World War II, Dr. Sasaki was forced with his family into a relocation camp for Japanese-Americans in northern California. His Ph.D. in psychology from Stanford, focusing on human factors engineering, earned him positions with NASA and Lockheed in the early space program, where he carried out studies of human performance in weightlessness. A decorated Air Force veteran who served in combat in Vietnam, Dr. Sasaki came to CSUB in 1972 and stayed because he “fell in love with the CSUB students” and, in turn, was beloved as an instructor, said his nominator, Dr. Steve Suter. During his 42-year career at CSUB, Dr. Sasaki was remembered as a meticulous, patient teacher and mentor, who never received a negative student evaluation. Among his innumerable accomplishments were the Applied Research Center, the Public History Institute, Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects Research, Animal Care and Use Committee, the cofounding of the Vision Laboratory, and the instituting of the Student Research Scholars Program. Dr. Sasaki died in 2014, while still serving CSUB as chair of Sociology. His son, Raymond, of Seattle, accepted the award on his behalf.

The late Dr. Marc Thomas, a legendary CSUB math and computer science professor, was remembered in an emotional tribute by his nominator, Dr. Melissa Dansforth. She described Dr. Thomas as a highly respected teacher; a conscientious colleague and mentor; and a brilliant scholar, who solved a famous problem in the fields of functional analysis and Banach and Frechet Algebras called the Singer-Wermer Conjecture. Dr. Thomas died
Library brings variety with lunchtime programs

The library launched a noon time series this year, bringing a variety of speakers and topics to the library during the 2018-19 school year – including healthy eating and meditation.

Dr. Benjamin Ha is a physician and one the area’s leading advocates for a plant-based, whole foods diet. Yessica Avencena is a psychotherapist and an advocate for the benefits of meditation. Both spoke in the library during the fall.

“The library provided these two workshops because they presented information that can help us all make informed choices about our health and well-being,” said Library Dean Curt Asher. “Information is our business.”

At Ha’s presentation, co-sponsor Better Bowls, a downtown vegan restaurant, provided lunch.

“The food was delicious,” Asher said. “I think some people were surprised how tasty plant-based eating can be.”

Ha said that the role nutrition plays in health has been underemphasized in medical education, despite the strong evidence that many conditions are caused or contributed to by diet. Conditions like diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, and cancer have been linked to diet.

“By focusing on healthy nutrition, perhaps we can eliminate or help prevent a lot of the different issues that we see,” Ha said. He counsels his patients to consider altering their diets. “Typically when you improve nutrition, we will see benefits.”

He said that a whole food plant-based diet focuses on eating more vegetables, fruits, beans, lentils and other legumes, and whole grains and reducing or eliminating dairy products, animal protein, processed foods, and oils and fried foods. He also encourages avoiding mock meats and cheeses and other “vegan” processed foods.

Like diet, there is evidence to show that meditation can also have a positive effect on health. People with anxiety and depression can benefit from meditation, which helps the body and mind deal with stress. Meditation has also been integrated into psychological practices for the treatment of number of psychiatric conditions. There have also been studies that show regular meditation can help reduce high blood pressure and can help people avoid suffering from other stress-related health conditions.

At Avencena’s workshop in late October, the UCLA-certified mindfulness instructor and psychotherapist discussed the evidence that shows that a meditation practice can have a positive effect on the people.

She then led a guided meditation practice.

Librarian helping international students overcome research struggles

Librarian Heather Cribbs prepares international students for research projects at her workshops.

Librarian Heather Cribbs is teaching international students at CSUB about the many resources available at the Walter Stern Library and helping them gain confidence as scholars.

She is the Stern Library’s first International Studies Program Liaison, a position that was created to reach out to the growing international student population and to provide them with library-research training and academic support.

As the international student population increases, Cribbs is working to ensure that the library plays a central role in these students’ educations.

“I presented on library resources and services at both Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semester sessions of the International Studies New Student Orientation, but I wanted a better way to connect with these students and address their specific concerns,” she said.

She said that working with Yuri Sakamaki, Director of International Student Success from Global Outreach, opened her eyes to the real struggles many of these students have.

Cribbs developed a hands-on academic research workshop series geared toward international students and their specific challenges and needs. The workshops help students understand the research process in the US, including lessons on how to avoid plagiarism, cite sources, paraphrase, find library resources, evaluate resources, and understand the instructor’s expectations.

Cribbs said that two keys she has taken from teaching international students are the need for creative thinking and not equating language skills and confidence with ability and intelligence.

“Teaching international students has made me a better teacher,” she said. “All students, even American students, have trouble navigating the changing expectations of their instructors as they transition to college and university academics. The library is a bridge between their instructors’ research expectations and them.”
Tales from the Vault #12

Murder at Long Tom

As mentioned in an earlier tale, the HRC houses United States Immigration and Naturalization Records. Through this collection we have been able to correct the historical record and learn much about Kern County’s pioneer immigrants. They came from all over the world. Some were icons of the county and others were ordinary citizens. Every time the records are opened something new is learned. This was, indeed, the case when I recently opened up the record books. Browsing through the book I stumbled across an entry for Mary Simi. According to the record, Simi lived at 1124 Gage Street in Bakersfield. She filed her petition for naturalization on February 27, 1923. The record also listed the names of other people petitioning for naturalization. What made Simi’s entry unique was that she was born in Illinois.

This begged the question: If Simi was born in Illinois, why was she petitioning for U.S. citizenship? After some digging, I found that Simi married Judas Simi, an Italian citizen. From this point, I started looking at immigration and naturalization laws and found the 1868 Expatriation Act and, more specifically, Section 3 which was added in 1907. Section 3 stipulated that any woman that married a non-U.S. citizen would lose their American citizenship. It appears that Mary fell victim to this law because she married Judas. What happened to Judas? His story has not been uncovered. His and many other stories are waiting to be uncovered. Come visit us! You never know what you’ll discover!

Marijuana initiatives spark joint discussion

Teaming up with the Kegley Institute of Ethics, the Walter Stiern Library helped organize and host a panel discussion on the effects of marijuana legalization on public health and the policy implications of various ballot initiatives relating to selling cannabis for medical and recreational consumption.

“Marijuana Policy in Kern County: A Community Conversation” brought Ana Olvera of Kern County Behavioral Health and Addiction Services, Dr. Josh Meisel, Co-director of the Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research and Sociology professor from Humboldt State, and Dirk Horn, policy expert and lecturer at CSUB. The hundreds of attendees filled the Dezember Reading Room and two overflow rooms, where the event was streamed. Students and advocates challenged and engaged with the speakers during the lengthy question and answer period. A recording of the event can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zitx6KWzVA/.

“Thanks to Michael Burroughs and the Kegley team, this was exactly what we hoped it would be— well attended, engaging, and inspiring. It was a real community conversation with divergent voices engaging in a civil and ethical discussion. Exactly what we need more of in this community and around the country,” Library Dean Curt Asher said.

Creative Writing Workshop with Reyna Grande

Annual Writing Workshop
hosted by the Walter W. Stiern Library.

Open to students and the community, but limited to 12 participants

June 6
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Walter W. Stiern Library at CSUB, 9001 Stockdale Highway
Cost: Free
Applications and information: library.csub.edu or (661) 654-3042

Panelists on the marijuana policy panel, Dr. Josh Meisel of Humboldt State, Ana Olvera of Kern Behavioral Health and Addiction Services and Professor Dirk Horn of CSUB, pose with event sponsors Michael Burroughs of the Kegley Institute of Ethics and Curt Asher of Walter Stiern Library.
 Supervisor debate fills Dezember Room

Candidates for 4th District Supervisor fought it out in the Dezember Reading Room on Wednesday, October 10, in a wide-ranging debate that drew hundreds. The debate was organized by Dr. Ivy Cargile of the Political Science Department and sponsored by the Walter Stiern Library. All the questions were written by political science students.

“The idea that this debate was student-centered was a key driving force because it allowed for CSUB’s Political Science majors and minors to become invested in the event through the writing of the questions,” Professor Cargile said. The debate opens the democratic process to students and the community and helps them understand the role of government and politics in their lives and their communities, Cargile said.

“In a sense, it is what we teach come to life,” she added.

This was the second political debate that the library has hosted in collaboration with the Political Science Department. In the spring, it hosted a debate between the two candidates for District Attorney.

The evolution of fatherhood is filmmaker’s topic

Academy Award-winning filmmaker Dana Glazer brought his movie The Evolution of Dad to the Dezember Room, drawing a large audience interested in his message.

The film, which was featured at the White House during a fatherhood event in 2014, examines the ways in which fatherhood has changed. In the past, fathers were largely absent from the day-to-day tasks of child rearing. The film looks closely at the lives of men who are the primary caregivers in their households, while tracking this trend historically and socially.

The New Jersey-based director is himself a stay-at-home dad and his own biography featured prominently in the film. He answered audience questions after the film.

“My hope in bringing this documentary and Mr. Glazer to CSU Bakersfield is to bring together students, staff, faculty, and the community to talk about the importance of fathers in each of our lives and how we as a society can love and support fathers as much as they love and support us,” said Terezita Overduin, Outreach and User Experience Librarian.

Poetry and music in the library

Award-winning Porterville poet Catherine Abbey Hodges read her carefully textured and image-rich poems during fall semester accompanied by improvised music from her celloist husband Rob Hodges.

“Catherine is a great writer and if you listen to her read you will come away changed,” said Library Dean Curt Asher.

Poet and CSUB English lecturer Matt Woodman worked with the library to bring the couple to campus.

Another poetry reading later in the semester brought Christopher Buckley to the library. The Walter Stiern Library helped cosponsor the CSUB English Department’s California Writers Series event, which was organized by Dr. Marit MacArthur.

On April 24, the library held its annual Local Poets event, with readings by student and community poets. Matt Woodman managed this event and a chapbook entitled Reading Sound, was created and published from the participants’ entries.

Persisting against the odds

Anneliese Landau persisted through tragedy and difficulty to become a famed music scholar, said Dr. Lily Hirsch, a musicologist and author. Dr. Hirsch discussed her book, Anneliese Landau’s Life in Music: Nazi Germany to Émigré California with a lunchtime audience in the library’s Dezember Reading Room. Landau pushed past bias in Germany to earn a Ph.D. in musicology in 1930. Landau was a Jew navigating the violent waters of Nazi Germany as a radio personality and public scholar, only to lose her rights, profession, and family to Nazi oppression. In 1939, Anneliese left Germany and emigrated to the US, where she faced and overcame sexism to succeed in her profession.

Dr. Hirsch holds a PhD. From Duke University and is the author of four books and dozens of book chapters and journal articles.

Faculty (Cont’d from page 4)

in 2017. His sister, Suzy Medaglia, accepted the award on his behalf.

The late Dr. Gary Kessler was a founding faculty member, coming to CSUB in 1970 to help build the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department. Nominated by Dr. Jacquelyn Kegley, as well as Dr. Stafford Betty, Dr. Kessler was remembered as an influential teacher. Dr. Kegley described the courses on Native American Religions and another course on cults that Dr. Kessler developed. She said students knew Dr. Kessler as a “creative, challenging, fair and truly excellent teacher” and a mentor to his colleagues. A strong advocate for faculty rights, he served three terms as chair of the local California Faculty Association. He was the author of important texts in philosophy and religious studies and was awarded a visiting research fellowship at the University of Victoria in 1998. After 34 years at CSUB, Dr. Kessler retired to Bellingham, Washington. He died last year.

These five professors join Drs. Michael Flachmann, Mary Doucet, Stanley Clark, Charles Kegley, Jim Whitley, and Gus Garcia in the hall. Plaques in their honor can be found on the second floor of the library.
ASSOCIATE PROFILE:
Dr. Tony Deeths rescues Writer in Residence program

When grant funding for the Walter Stiern Library’s Writer in Residence Program was depleted to the point of no return, Dr. Tony Deeths stepped in to save it. A long-time appreciator of libraries and a Stiern Associate, Dr. Deeths understands how important it is for libraries to engage students and the public intellectually. Bringing speakers to the library communicates ideas and opens minds.

Corporate sponsorship dried up last year and the program looked as if it would end. When Dr. Deeths heard about this, he decided to help, providing the library with another five years of funding.

The Walter Stiern Library Writer in Residence program brings a successful author or poet to campus to provide a reading in the spring and one-day creative writing workshop in the summer.


The goal of the program is to encourage creative writing activities in the community and on campus by hosting great writers and allowing our patrons to learn from them.

“We greatly appreciate Tony’s generosity. What a fantastic gift to the library and to the aspiring writers in our community,” said Library Dean Curt Asher.