think we can have the best library in the state. While we’ll never have the budget that some other libraries have, we can provide the best service, have the most innovative projects, and maintain an in-depth and textured collection of books and resources that matches our curricula.”

Asher described the library as an interconnected network of resources that allows students to engage with ideas. It functions as both a physical place where students meet to learn and study and apply knowledge they gained in the classroom, and as a hub for a network of millions of learning resources. It is also a place where students connect socially, he said.

“I think we have topnotch librarians and a great staff here. The librarians are really consultants and teachers who show students...”

The Walter W. Stiern Library will soon begin a renovation and modernization project, which will greatly expand study space for students, thanks to a generous gift.

The library received a $1.4 million legacy gift recently, about a third of which will be used to make improvements to the facility. The donor, who passed away in January, had spoken at length with Library Dean Curt Asher about the library’s programs and needs and had indicated that he planned to provide the library with some financial help.

“We were stunned when we learned the size of his gift. What a generous and wonderful legacy to leave the people of Bakersfield and the students of CSUB,” Asher said. “A gift to the library touches every student.”

The donor’s estate requested anonymity.

“He was a humble man, who cared deeply about education and libraries,” Director of Development Victor Martin said, who assisted the donor with information about giving to the university.

In Phase One of the renovation, the library will be moving the reference area and expanding online reference access, which will allow for the construction of more study space for students.

“Students have made it clear to us they want more study space, especially in the evenings,” Asher said. “This gift is going to allow us to provide that, beginning with seating in the reference area for laptop use, which will complement the laptop computer checkout program we intend to start this fall.”

The 2015 Walter Stiern Library PG&E Writer-in-Residence led an all day workshop on June 25 for writers from the campus and community. John Hampsey, author of Kaufman’s Hill, is the third person to be named as the library’s Writer in Residence. The program brings an author to campus to provide a public reading and teach a summer workshop. Previous writers in residence were Angie Chau and Marisa Silver. The project is funded by a donation from PG&E.

The 1965 Delano Grape Strike: Exploring New Perspectives

Student Takes on Internship Challenge

Tales from the Vault #5

The Brief
The 1965 Delano Grape Strike: Exploring New Perspectives

The Walter Stiern Library and Public History Institute, in partnership with Bakersfield College, will explore the 1965 Delano Grape Strike through oral history, photographs, and primary source materials. The project involves interviews with former grape workers, locals and others who were involved in the strike. The CSU libraries selected a company to streamline workflow, and allow for systemwide sharing of the collections. The CSU libraries are partnering with the Library Services Department of the United Farm Workers Foundation at the Shafter Research Station to organize, preserve and document the history of the Grape Strike.

Student Takes on Internship

The library’s Historical Research Center is working with the California Farms Foundation at the Shafter Research Station to organize, preserve and document the history of the library. Formerly owned by the US Department of Agriculture, the station was established in 1967 and has over 40,000 librarian members.

CSUB Library joins Spanish university in study of Basque diaspora

CSUB Librarians present research at ALA conference

CSU Libraries Ying Zhong and Sandra Bozarth present their research at the American Library Association conference.
Walter W. Stiern Library Associates

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To become a member of Stiern Associates, go to www.csub.edu/library and select the “donate” link at the bottom of the page.