Library and Information Science Fair draws over 100 attendees

The first Professions in Library and Information Science Fair held at the Stiern Library on April 23rd drew more than a hundred people from Kern County and Southern California. Attendees had a chance to meet with librarians working in a wide range of settings and to talk with graduate school representatives from California’s library and information science programs.

“I was extremely pleased by the success of this event. Johanna Alexander and Curt Asher should be commended for their work developing and organizing it. Johanna, in particular, showed real leadership by bringing such a wide range of library professionals from around the state to CSUB,” said Library Director Rod Hersberger.

Librarians participating in the fair included a medical librarian from Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno, an academic librarian from CSU Long Beach, representatives from Kern County Public Schools, the head of the Kern County Law Library, a library services vendor and librarians from the Kern County Library System, Bakersfield College and CSUB. Also attending were representatives from California’s two ALA-accredited library science programs at UCLA and San Jose State University, and from the school librarian credentialing program at Fresno Pacific.

The librarian participants talked with attendees about the work they do. The event was a rare opportunity to promote the profession in Kern County. Many participants reported that they were gratified to have an opportunity to discuss librarianship with interested members of the public.

“Librarianship is consistently positive work. You devote your day to helping people. That’s very rewarding,” said Assistant Librarian Curt Asher.

The apparent hunger for information about librarianship comes at a time when the professional workforce is growing older and technology is growing more sophisticated. More than half of practicing librarians will turn 65 during the next fifteen years. Many of them have watched the digital revolution unfold during the course of their careers and helped establish standards for incorporating technological change into their libraries. New ideas and fresh perspectives are always being sought in the profession and the aim of the event was to inspire interest in a new generation of library leaders.

About sixty percent of the attendees were CSUB students contemplating their futures. Others were community members looking for new careers.

“Several people disclosed that they’d always had a secret desire to be a librarian,” said Librarian Johanna Alexander.

One of the purposes of the event was to show that the library profession defies stereotypes and offers a broad range of opportunities. The ever-changing technological

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nature of information access makes librarianship a dynamic profession, requiring continual re-education and adjustment. And within the profession, there are specializations that require mastery of special bodies of knowledge. For example, the work of a medical librarian in a hospital who provides research services for physicians is different from the college librarian who teaches students about accessing the library’s databases and bibliographic collections. Conservators who preserve and restore historical printed materials work in a much different environment than systems librarians who maintain public access to electronic databases, although both are librarians.

The profession offers people a wide variety of opportunities—from science and technology to art and literature and from designing information systems to authoring bibliographies—but librarianship is often overlooked as a career, particularly by ethnic minorities. By promoting the event and bringing a diverse group of professionals together at CSUB, organizers hoped many who may have never thought about the library or information field as a career would take the time to explore the many options available to those with a master’s degree in library or information science.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on library and information science careers, educational opportunities, scholarships, and internship programs visit the following Web sites:

American Library Association
Information on Education and Careers
http://www.alaw.org/Template.cfm?Section=Education_and_Careers

ALA Accredited Graduate Programs
http://www.alaw.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Education_and_Careers/Accredited_Programs/Accredited_Programs.htm

To request a free information packet, please contact Johanna Alexander at 661-664-3256.

Wireless Access at the Stiern Library

In August 2001, Library systems staff installed antennas for a wireless network on the second, third and fourth floors, in the 24 hour reading room and in Media Services. The antennas are located in the middle of each floor, so the signal is stronger there at 11mbps. The farther away one gets from the antenna, the slower the connection is, about 4mbps.

If a student’s computer does not have a wireless card, he/she can borrow one from Circulation. The student help desk in the main computer lab will then configure the student’s computer to access the wireless network.

This service has been slow to catch on, since many students do not have portable computers. However, demand for wireless access has increased lately and we expect eventually it will be a preferred mode of access for many students.

Retirement Time

Our colleague and Stiern Library Newsletter editor Barbara Mitchell is retiring in June after nearly 23 years with CSUB. For some reason, Barb and her husband Steve, a CSUB Geology professor, have decided Cape Cod is a better place to retire than Bakersfield!

Barb began working at CSUB in November 1980 as the secretary for the California Odyssey Project which gathered narrative and oral histories from people who settled in this area during the 1930s Dust Bowl migration to California. Barb then moved to the Library in 1983 putting in a short stint in Technical Services before becoming my secretary until 1987.

When the Library began using paraprofessional staff to support the librarians at the reference desk, Barb moved into one of these Information Assistant positions. She has excelled in that role and made countless other contributions to the Stiern Library’s programs and services.

The entire staff joins me in wishing Barb and Steve a happy and healthy retirement on Cape Cod.
Our colleague and friend Pat Robles died on March 28th of heart failure following by-pass surgery. She would have been 50 on June 1st.

at began working in the CSUB Library in 1979 as a Clerical Assistant. She held positions in cataloging, serials and government publications moving up in rank to Library Assistant II. In 1992, Pat completed a Master of Library Science degree from UCLA and we were able to hire her as an Assistant Librarian. In 1998, she was promoted to Senior Assistant Librarian.

Among the highlights of her career, Pat coordinated the move from the old library to the Stiern Library in 1993 which was a major undertaking. She also helped me found the Stiern Library Associates and continued working with that group throughout her life. Pat also founded the Library’s Multicultural Collection which we recently named after her.

Pat excelled in all aspects of librarianship, but reference was her favorite because she so much enjoyed working with the students. We all miss her bright spirit and constant good cheer.

Pat is survived by her husband Rick and their son Matt who is a student at UC Santa Cruz.

The following people made generous contributions to the Stiern Library Associates so we could purchase a great number of books in Pat's memory:

- Johanna and Tim Alexander
- Vicki Archerda
- Curt Asher
- Grace Wai-Sze Chang
- Criminal Justice Faculty
- Diana and Tony Dominguez
- Mark Dowdle
- Virginia Folsom
- Marie Garcia
- Christy Gavin
- Sherry and Gerry Gomez
- Dorinne and Jose Gonzales
- Laurel and Tom Guevara
- Harvey Hall
- Rod and Susan Hersberger
- Diane and Norm Hutcherson
- LaVonne Jacobsen
- Rose and Derek Jones
- Jacquelyn A. Kegley
- Doris and David Kosakowski
- Janet Martin
- Nancy and Charles McCarthy
- Vickie Melton
- Donna and Christopher Meyers
- Barbara and Steven Mitchell
- Eileen Montoya
- Cheryl and Duane Moore
- Darline Norris
- Kathleen and Gordon Owen
- Cathie Poochigian
- David J. Rivera
- Ramona and Arturo Robles
- Sandra and Gregory Rogers
- Liz and Gil Rojas
- Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Rojas, Jr.
- Clarke Sanford
- Khansamaa Tun
- Laura and Bill Wolfe
- Ying Yu and Zhiqun Deng
- Aide Zaragoza and Carlos Garza

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[ ] In recognition of ____________________________  [ ] In honor of ____________________________

[ ] Birthday  [ ] Graduation  [ ] Anniversary  [ ] Retirement  [ ] Memorial  [ ] Other

Each $50 gift purchases one book and bookplate. Each $100 gift purchases two books with bookplates along with a one year membership in the Stiern Library Associates at the Associate level. If your gift is $100 or more, please designate the individual receiving the Stiern Library Associates membership. The named member must be 18 years of age or older.

Designated Stiern Library Associates member: ____________________________

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Please make checks payable to CSUB Foundation.
Send checks and this form to:
Stiern Library Associates
California State University, Bakersfield
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, California 93311

If you do not want your name, honoree's name, and/or number of books contributed made public in either print or electronic Stiern Library publications, please check this space. [ ]

Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. Associate Level membership in the Stiern Library Associates provides recognition in the Stiern Library Newsletter and various library publications (both print and electronic), two bookplates as mentioned, and one free Community Access Card for the named card holder. Named card holder must be 18 years of age or older. Community Access Card is valid for one year and has same restrictions.

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Walter W. Stiern Library Associates

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Johanna and Tim Alexander, Associate, in recognition of George and Pat Olson/Bob and Millie Alexander
Tomas and Connie Arciniega, Contributing
Harvey and Laura Brockmeyer, Associate
Terry Bulaski, Contributing, in recognition of Teoira Leigh Bulaski
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Dr. Charles and Judy Fritch, Benefactor
James and Ruby Gilmore, Associate
Rod and Susan Hersberger, Sponsor, in memory of Pat Robles
George and Janice Holder, Associate
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Jerome Kleinasser and Jeanne Harrie, Associate
Robert C. Marshall, M.D., Contributing
Charles H. McCall, Associate
Tom and Elizabeth E. McDonnell, Contributing
Gloria McLean, Associate, in memory of Senator Walter W. Stiern
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B.J. Moore, Contributing
Rick and Matt Robles, Sponsor, in memory of Pat Robles
Sunny Scofield, Associate, in memory of LeMonte Scofield
Jeffry Spencer, Sponsor, in memory of David G. Spencer
June Stern, Contributing, in memory of Walter W. Stiern
William and Laura Wolfe, Associate, in memory of Pat Robles

Members
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Janice Benson, Associate
Carolyn Bunker, Associate, in recognition of Betty M. Bunker
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Mark Evans, Associate
Marie Garcia, Associate, in memory of Pat Robles
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Christy Gavin, Associate, in recognition of Brittany, Kedra, Claire and Tommy
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Theo and Marko B. Zaninovich, Sustaining

Stiern Library Associates Recognize Service to Library

The Stiern Library Associates will purchase books to honor staff for their continued and committed service to the Stiern Library and its programs. In 2003, the Stiern Library Associates recognizes years of service for the following library staff:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Name</th>
<th>Years of Service</th>
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<tr>
<td>Curt Asher</td>
<td>5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonnie Dixon</td>
<td>20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Kosakowski</td>
<td>25 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vickie Melton</td>
<td>25 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Mitchell</td>
<td>20 years</td>
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2003 Staff Memorials
Annie Richardson Olsen

For more information about the Stiern Library Associates, please call the Director of Libraries at 664-3042.

Stiern Library Newsletter
SPRING 2003

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