Walter W. Stiern Library Associates

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PG&E contributes new computers to library

Uility giant Pacific Gas and Electric contributed $75,000 last month so that Stiern Library could buy new reference computers.

“PG&E has been a benefactor to us before. They seem to be there for us in times of need,” Library Dean Rod Hersberger said. “With these tight state budgets, we rely on contributions from our friends in the community like PG&E.”

Corporate and individual gifts really make a difference in the lives of students, the dean added. Many CSUB students depend on the library’s computers for their research and writing.

“I think I speak for all our students when I say thanks,” Hersberger said. He said he wanted particularly to single out PG&E managers Tom Jones and Brent Rush for their work in helping to arrange the gift.

The 54 reference computers were all ailing when PG&E stepped in. Old and slow, they badly needed to be replaced.

“It was nice to be able to put those old machines out of their misery,” the dean quipped.

Hersberger elected treasurer at world’s largest library organization

CSUB Dean of Libraries Rod Hersberger was elected treasurer of the American Library Association in May and sworn into office in July. Hersberger will share the executive stage with newly elected ALA President Jim Retting, a Virginian and head of the University of Richmond library.

The ALA is the world’s oldest and largest library organization with a membership of 65,000. It has long been a guardian of intellectual freedom and open inquiry and a promoter of information services for all.

“I was deeply honored and grateful that my colleagues had the confidence in my qualifications to select me for this important ALA office.”

— Rod Hersberger

Hersberger replaced former Treasurer, Teri Switzer, of whom he said he had the utmost respect.

Hersberger’s election to the office thrusts the CSUB dean onto a position of national leadership.

“I hope to continue with the great work Teri was doing. I will continue to simplify the reporting of ALA business onto a position of national leadership.”

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Computers (continued from page 1)

The gift came shortly before school started, which
gave the technical staff time to replace the old comput-
ers, before the students arrived.

The new computers, Dell Optiplex 745s, are smaller
than their predecessors and with the flat screen monitors,
provide the added benefit of giving students more desk
space.

A reception is scheduled for November 5 in the
December Reading Room to celebrate the gift, which will
include a check presentation and plaque unveiling.

Hersberger (continued from page 1)

ALA revenues to their best results,” he said.

Hersberger credited his victory with his willingness to
listen to the membership. At the winter ALA conference
in Seattle, he personally met with nearly every group in
the organization. With the assistance of two librarians, he
handed out campaign materials to thousands of people.

“My goal was to make my qualifications known to
the members of ALA—my accounting and business training
and management experience,” he said.

In addition to a master’s degree in library science
from the Indiana University, Hersberger holds an under-
graduate degree in accounting and master’s degree in
business administration. He has worked in libraries for
more than 30 years. Prior to coming to CSUB in 1984,
he was Assistant Dean of Administrative Services and
Assistant Director of Technical Services at the University
of Oklahoma. During his tenure at CSUB, he led the
construction of the new library, which opened in 1994.

Hersberger has been very active in ALA commit-
tees for decades, including the Budget Analysis and
Review Committee, and as a representative for the Library
Administration and Management Association (LAMA).
He chaired LAMA’s Financial Management Committee
from 1982 to 1984.

“As President Mitchell has commented, CSUB’s goal
is excellence. I hope that my election helps bring the
kind of positive recognition that will help lead us there,”
his said. The librarian faculty recognized their Dean’s
accomplishment with a brief celebration after a staff meet-
ing recently.

California history collection being built with Cerro gift

One of the many living legacies left behind by
Dolores Freeman Cerro with her passing is the new
Cerro California History Collection.

Mrs. Cerro, who died in 2004, left $2.2 million to
Stiern Library. The library has been using a portion
of the income from that
generous bequest to build
collections in the humanities,
particular literature
and history. One of the projects that librarians
have been working on is
the development of the
California History
Collection, an effort to gather together books covering
all aspects of the Golden State’s history comprehen-
sively.

“We felt that this type of collection was exactly what
Mrs. Cerro had in mind when she when she bequeathed
the money to us,” Library Dean Rod Hersberger said.

The collection is being built carefully and slowly.

“The library already has a strong California history
collection, so what this project does is allow us to fill in
gaps in our collection and
to locate some obscure
titles that will make
some specialized histori-
cal scholarship possible here,” said Curt Asher,
the librarian who is head-
ing the project.

The collection is being
house in the Dezember Reading Room, which is often
described as the most beautiful room on campus. It is an
area where the library showcases important small collec-
tions and holds public functions.

New Title V interns for 2007

Two applicants were selected as Title V library interns
for 2007-2008. The internship program allows selected
students interested in pursuing a library career an oppor-
tunity to gain skills, education, and professional-level
experience in librarianship prior to entering a masters
degree program.

Selection for the intern
slots can be highly com-
petitive.

The two new interns are
junior Daniel Olive and
senior Marissa Pineda.

Dan transferred from
Bakersfield College after
receiving his associate’s degree in liberal arts in
December 2006. After obtaining a bachelor’s degree in
English with a minor in Communications from
CSUB, he plans to earn a master’s degree in Library
and Information Science at the School of Library and
Information Science at San Jose State University.

Marissa is majoring in psychology. She plans on
enrolling in an MLS program after graduating.

“I feel that this internship will be a great learning
experience and will help
prepare me for the next
step in my college career,”
she said.

The internship, in
its fifth year, was started
and is managed by librar-
ians Johanna Alexander
Curt Asher. The pro-
gram has been the subject
of national recognition and
has a high success rate. It is funded by a federal grant
made available to Hispanic-serving institutions of higher
education.

The Walter W. Stiern Library Associates • Individual Membership Response Form

Please complete the form. Make checks payable to the Cal State Bakersfield Foundation and return with the completed form. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. Membership covers one year from the date of contribution.

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The Stiern Library Associates

Walter W. Stiern Library

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