Librarians present paper in prestigious ALA program

Two CSUB librarians, Johanna Alexander and Curt Asher, were selected to present a juried paper at the American Library Association Conference in Anaheim this summer.

Johanna and Curt along with colleagues from two of the nation's top private colleges, Occidental and Simmons, presented a paper entitled Assessing, Improving, and Sustaining Internship Programs: Three Models. The paper was published in the ALA monograph Issues in Librarianship in July.

Only 12 percent of the papers submitted to the conference were accepted for presentation and publication this year.

The librarians discussed evaluation measures used to improve and sustain internships. Curt and Johanna focused on their experience with the Title V program.

Librarian, intern discuss film at poster session

Ying Zhong was selected to present a poster at the American Library Association Annual Conference, in Anaheim, CA, June 28-30, 2008 about a student film project she oversaw.

The film The Adventures of Bionic Student received an honorable mention by the Library Leadership and Management Association "In Recognition of Outstanding Efforts in the Area of Library Public Relations." The film is a library instructional video modeled on the 70's TV series Bionic Woman. The film starred Marissa Pineda, former library intern. It can be viewed on YouTube.

Ying's poster session, entitled "A Star Is Born -- Engaging Title V Student in Library Video Project," provided information on how the library's video was brainstormed, shot, and edited by Title V intern Marissa Pineda and her peers.

She also presented observations on and thoughts about the experience of working with new generation students from the librarian who oversaw the project.

During the poster session, Ying and Marissa Pineda answered questions and discussed informally the contents of the display.
An Evening with Firoozeh Dumas

Firoozeh Dumas, bestselling author of *Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America*, will be speaking at 7 p.m., November 10th, 2008 at CSUB's Icardo Center.

*Funny in Farsi* was chosen as the 2008-2009 Runner Reader selection, in support of CSUB’s Roadrunner Resources for Undergraduate Success and High-Achievement (RUSH-A) First-Year Experience Program. The goal of the program is to “build, nurture, and sustain a vibrant educational community at CSUB committed to academic and personal success of undergraduate students ‘in transition,’ ” including first-time freshmen, transfer students, and re-entry students. All students in CSUB 101/301 (introduction to the university courses) and English composition courses will read and discuss the book in an effort to create a shared learning experience, promote a sense of community, and help ease the transition into college.

This fall, the Runner Reader program is also expanding to local high schools, in an effort to foster a stronger connection between high school and college. High school students will read *Funny in Farsi* and will complete the same assignments as their collegiate counterparts. Roughly 500 students at Arvin High School read last year’s selection, *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otuska. This year, approximately 2000 students from six additional high schools, including Frontier, Liberty, North, Shafter, Stockdale, and West High Schools, have been invited to participate in the program.

*Funny in Farsi* was a finalist for the PEN/USA award in 2004 and a finalist in 2005 for an Audie Award for best audio book. Dumas was also a finalist for the prestigious Thurber Prize for American Humor, the first Middle Eastern woman ever to be so honored. Dumas’ second book, *Laughing Without an Accent*, was published by Random House in May.

“An Evening with Firoozeh Dumas” will feature a talk by the author, a Question-and-Answer session, and book signing. Writing awards, for both CSUB students and high school students, will also be presented. The event is free and open to the public and everyone is highly encouraged to attend. Copies of both of Dumas’ books will also be available for sale.

If you would like to help purchase copies of *Funny in Farsi* for local high school students or if you would like to know more about the Runner Reader Program, the RUSH-A Program, or “An Evening with Firoozeh Dumas,” please contact Dr. Emerson Case at 661-654-6281 or at ecase@csub.edu.

Interns had rare opportunity to attend ALA conference

The 2007-2008 interns, Marissa Pineda and Mandy Wallace, had a rare opportunity to attend the national American Library Association Conference this year because of its proximity to Bakersfield. Below are Mandy's reflections on the trip.

Reflection on the ALA Conference

By Mandy Wallace

It was amazingly lucky that I got a chance to attend the American Library Association’s annual conference in Anaheim. I learned a lot about the profession which is great since library school graduate applications like to see that the applicants understand some of the regular problems that crop up in this career. One graduate application asks for the applicant to identify these types of problems and provide some possible approaches to address these issues. I suppose that is a great way to identify which applicants are more serious or who has put more thought into the career track. Attending the ALA conference has given me much insight into librarianship and library-specific issues and give me a leg up in the graduate school application process.

I attended so many workshops and lectures, both fun and instructional. I was amazed at the variety and relevance each workshop had even for me as an undergraduate intern. I attended workshops on resumes, salary negotiation, dealing with potentially dangerous situations and patrons, fundraising, book talks, Indian literature and art, listened to Dean Koontz and Jamie Lee Curtis speak, met Orson Scott Card who is one of my favorite authors, and much more. Who knew that becoming a librarian was a way to meet famous authors and movie stars?! How exciting!

Attending the ALA conference helped me to understand the profession in a way that no literature on the subject can really demonstrate. Through these different workshops and meeting (and relentlessly questioning!) people who are both new to and veterans of the profession has helped me to narrow down a possible specialization. With much of the literature that I have been reading and all of the different areas of specialization, it is easy to become slightly overwhelmed with the wealth of information and the numerous options. But the ALA conference really grounded these abstract concepts and possibilities continued on page 3
into reality for me. I had the opportunity to hear real people discuss their real successes and set-backs. And I was able to connect these stories with my own experiences working at a library.

For example, I attended a pre-conference on book talks for teenagers that I was able to connect with my past experience as an assistant working with teens at a public library. What really stood out for me was when a group of librarians in one break-out session at the book talk workshop mentioned, in passing, that their library had a group of troubled teens that almost lived at the library during after school hours. No one focused on this, but each of them weighed in on the subject as though it were common knowledge that this was a universal “problem” in public libraries. Although it didn’t seem of much importance to anyone else, it really hit home with me because there was a group of kids like that at the Beale library when I worked on the teen project there. Yes, they were disruptive at times, but they were troubled kids who often only needed some attention. They came from troubled homes. There was one girl who was truly gifted. She was in GATE (gifted and talented education) classes at school which is for students who learn faster or have a higher IQ’s than their peers. But she came from a broken home and had little opportunity to benefit from her potential. I still think about her and hope that she has found people to encourage her in ways that her parents could not. But what if the library had a program for these kids that encouraged them to go to college, to volunteer in library programs for other teens, or just handed them the books with some of the answers? They’re already in the library, which is what many library teen programs hope to accomplish as a basic goal. The hardest part is done. Kids like these have unique experiences and strengths that can’t be learned in school or in comfortable home lives. Imagine what they might contribute to others if they only had the push to become something more! Imagine how much a single librarian could impact these kids if only she approached it from a different angle or perspective? I’m sure that there are librarians out there who do just that, but one who comes from the same type of background as these kids do is likely rare and certainly valuable. I had considered something like this specialization before, but I didn’t realize that so many libraries had this group of troubled teens. Since it is a widespread issue, a specialization here would be more valuable than I at first imagined. I’m glad that it came up at the ALA conference where I could witness the library professionals discuss it.

Overall, the ALA conference was fantastic! I learned so much and even had an amazing amount of fun, met a movie star and got signed copies of popular books! It was an amazing opportunity that I wish all the interns had! It really solidified a lot of abstract information that was just floating around and waiting to be grounded. I made connections that I wouldn’t have otherwise made and learned a lot about the profession. I think that the ALA conference experience will also boost the competitiveness of my graduate application. Not only will it look great on my list of experiences, but I can also demonstrate in my personal statement than I am well informed and have thought a great deal about the profession. I maybe even found a specialization. Too bad for us that the ALA conference isn’t always held so close to Bakersfield. It was an invaluable experience that I won’t soon forget.

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