Library design stuns visitors

Visitors to Stiem Library are often stunned by the quality and beauty of its design.

The design is intentionally open, with several intimate and sequestered reading spaces, near large windows. The first floor houses the library’s technology in a heavily used reference area, which is overseen by reference librarians at a desk that was designed to be of equal height to the student desks.

“We placed the reference desk at this height to create an accommodating atmosphere in the reference area. Asking for help should not be an intimidating experience,” said Rod Hersberger, Dean of Libraries.

The first thing that a person sees as he enters the library is the custom-designed computer desks, with fifty-four computers available to students for research and writing. The reference area is the busiest area of the library and is juxtaposed with the Dezember Reading Room.

See DESIGN page 2

Interlibrary Loan opens 23 libraries to CSUB students

When students enroll at California State University, Bakersfield, they join the largest university system in the United States and gain free access to the libraries at all 23 campuses.

All the Interlibrary Loan Departments in the CSU use advanced resource-sharing and communication software systems to locate materials in each other’s libraries, to transmit those materials, and to track shipments.

“The technology has really changed the way materials are shared,” said Curt Asher, coordinator of the department.

Books within the CSU system normally travel by carrier, while articles are transmitted electronically.

“Professors have commented to me that they are surprised when the requests for rare or very obscure materials they consider long shots have been filled by the department,” Asher said.

The Interlibrary Services Partnership Information Exchange (I-SPIE), a group organized by the CSU chancellor’s office and largely run by interlibrary loan staff, helps set the direction for system-wide resource sharing policies.

Ariel Lauricio, of the CSUB interlibrary loan

See LOAN page 2
**Design** (continued from page 1)

Modeled loosely on the Morrison Room in Doe Library at Berkeley, the Dezember Reading Room is one of the most beautiful rooms in Kern County. The walls are covered with cherry veneer panels. The floors are hardwood and are accented with oriental rugs. A wall of picture windows fills the room with natural light. The room is even equipped with a working fireplace.

“This room is intended to be both a showpiece and a place of study and rest,” the dean said. “Many important campus functions—meetings, lectures, social events, and readings—take place in the Dezember room.”

The Dezember room has four alcoves that house book collections—the Cerro California History Collection, the Pat Robles Multicultural Collection, and First-Year Collection. Thedisplay shelves hold magazines and selected new books.

The master staircase at the center of the first floor leads to the second floor, where the openness of the design is particularly noticeable. All main stairways to the upper floors, the elevators, and the restroom facilities are located near the stairway. Study areas on the upper floors rely on a combination of natural lighting from the large windows on the north and south sides and task lighting for evenings and gray winter days. Administrative and faculty offices and work spaces are generally tucked out of sight so that the functioning of the library is at the center of all activity.

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**Loan** (continued from page 1)

department, has been actively involved with I-SPIE and was instrumental in helping the group compile a user guide for the implementation of a document delivery software system. Most campuses used this guide as a starting point to implement the system.

Ariel fills requests from students and faculty at other libraries with the help of his small staff of work-study students. They pull books and locate articles from our collection. These materials can be in any form: monograph, microfilm, print journal, or electronic journal. The materials may be packaged and shipped or scanned into the document delivery system.

Students who have the opportunity to work in Interlibrary Loan soon learn to locate anything in the library and spend a lot of time pushing book trucks through the stacks, helping fill requests.

While Ariel’s patrons are students and faculty from other places wanting to borrow from CSUB, Janet Gonzales’ patrons are CSUB students and faculty looking for materials in other libraries. She communicates daily with library staff in other Interlibrary Loan Departments across the CSU and around the nation.

“One co-worker described our work as like being part of a small network of scholars, locating and sharing the materials that allow research to take place,” Janet said.

With budgets at universities shrinking, there is expected to be more emphasis on resource sharing within the CSU. The State Library has in the past helped subsidize all interlibrary sharing with the state, but with the current budget situation, only when CSUB shares with public libraries, are the costs subsidized. Fortunately the Interlibrary Loan department has negotiated over 16 reciprocal agreements with libraries around the country that allow materials to be borrowed and loaned for free.
Daniel was also named the History Department’s Outstanding Graduating Senior for 2008-2009. He is majoring in history and has a minor in economics. He will graduate in June. Daniel is also president of the local chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta historical honors society.

Daniel was selected for the highly competitive Teach for America program, which places the nation’s top graduates as teachers in schools most in need of quality teachers, often in some of the poorest and most troubled communities in the country. Daniel plans to fulfill a commitment to the program and then attend graduate school. He will undertake some teacher training in New York City this summer. After that he will begin his appointment as a teacher in Oklahoma.
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