CSUB librarian co-chairs national committee

CSUB librarian Ying Zhong co-chaired a committee of the Association of College and Research Libraries at the American Library Association’s 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago in July.

The American Library Association (ALA) is the oldest and largest library association in the world. Each summer, the ALA annual conference draws more than 25,000 attendees who attend a vast number of exhibits, meetings, discussion groups, and educational programs on various topics that affect libraries and librarians.

Ying previously served in the American Library Association’s 2008 Emerging Leaders Program, which offered her a chance to take part in problem-solving workgroups, learn about the American Library Association from the inside, and gain leadership experience with the organization.

CSUB Library Dean Rod Hersberger, who serves as treasurer of the American Library Association, said conference participation gives librarians an opportunity to stay on top of the trends in the profession and to network with colleagues. “Conference participation creates the opportunity for bringing fresh ideas to a library,” he added.

Ying said the experience of serving in the ALA was very valuable to new librarians like her and that she learned a lot from colleagues across the country.

She agreed that the ALA annual conference is a great networking opportunity. Librarians have a chance to meet face to face with educators, publishers, writers, their colleagues, and even supporters of libraries, she said. Ying was especially impressed by the International Librarians’ Reception where she had a chance to talk to librarians from all over the world.

“In one minute I was chatting with a librarian from my hometown in China, and in the next, I found myself talking to an Egyptian librarian. It’s just amazing!” she said.

First Year Experience Collection helps students navigate university life

The Walter W. Stiern Library developed a First Year Experience Collection to serve our new students as well as continuing students searching for assistance with the challenges of university life. Many of California State University, Bakersfield students are first generation college students and do not have a network of family resources to provide them with advice based on personal experience with university success. The books in the First Year Experience Collection cover topics including how to pick a major, developing study skills and how to give a presentation. Some of the most popular are books on financial planning and developing a resume and cover letter.

Each year, the First Year Experience program at California State University, Bakersfield has a common reader which all first year students read. The author visits and spends the day leading events on campus for students, faculty and staff. For the 2009-2010 school year, campus will be reading Joseph M. Marshall’s The Lakota Way. Mr. Marshall, who is also the author of The Power of Four: Leadership Lessons of Crazy Horse, will be speaking to the public in the Icardo Center on November 4th at 7 p.m. We will also have a special visit this year from the associate curator for the National Museum of the American Indian, Paul Chaat Smith, on September 30th at 7 p.m. in the Dore Theatre. Mr. Smith is the author of Like a Hurricane: The Indian Movement from Alcatraz to Wounded Knee and the recently published Everything you Know About Indians is Wrong. These events are often the first time our students have the opportunity to meet a nationally recognized author and this can be a formative experience in developing a life of reading.

The First Year Experience Librarian, Sarah Fay Philips,

See EXPERIENCE page 3
Important books: Picks by some librarians and professors

The Walter W. Stiern Library has 352,000 books on its shelves. We asked some of our colleagues to recommend a title and tell us why they picked it.

Librarian Curt Asher recommends:
The Assistant by Bernard Malamud
This is a short novel about a bad character, who learns about suffering and atonement in a failing Jewish grocery store in New York City. It was written in 1957 by one of the masters of 20th century literature. [Find it on the fourth floor, at call number PS3563 A4 A88]

Music professor Joel Haney recommends:
The Oxford History of Western Music by Richard Taruskin (6 vols).
Don’t let the title, which seems to announce a boring reference work, scare you. Perusing any one of this book’s 69 chapters—or any passage therein—is a delight. Taruskin teaches at UC Berkeley and is one of the most widely read (in both senses) and controversial music historians of our day. Even his detractors would agree that this massive history, which traces the literate tradition of European and American music from the Middle Ages to the present, stands as a monumental achievement. Taruskin situates representative musical pieces and practices within cultural, social, and political contexts with tremendous verve and in illuminating detail. This is a highly stimulating read for general and specialist audiences alike. [Find it on the fourth floor, at call number ML160 .Ti8 2005]

Religious Studies professor Tim Vivian recommends:
The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream by Barack Obama.
In this book, the President shows us a gifted leader who not only has a good grasp of both national and international politics but, and more importantly, is thoughtful and self-reflective. This book could inspire a generation of young people and students, whatever their politics, to reach beyond themselves to help others live better lives. [Find it on the third floor, at call number E901.1.O23 A3 2006]

Librarian Kristine Holloway recommends:
Affirming diversity: the sociopolitical context of multicultural education by Sonia Nieto.
Sonia Nieto is really important for her work in understanding how to teach varying social groups more effectively. Her work was recommended to me by a teacher that I met at a conference. Reading her helps in understanding how to work more effectively with different types of students including ELL and the elderly. She is building a large body of scholarship in this area and is considered an authority. Anyone working with students who have any variance in ethnicity, etc would find this book tremendously informative. [Find it on the first floor in the Pat Robles Multicultural Collection, at call number LC1099.3 .N54 2008]

Physics Professor Jorge Talamantes recommends:
Numerical analysis: theory and practice by N.S. Asaithambi.
It has many useful and practical numerical algorithms, and clear explanations of how they work, and how they are used. [Find it on the fourth floor at call number QA297 A747 1995]

Religious Studies Professor Stephen Campagna-Pim recommends:
The Autobiography of Malcolm X
The Autobiography shows the power of education to transform the human spirit throughout the course of a person’s life. The book shows Malcolm changing and growing throughout his lifetime as he confronted inequality and injustice in many forms. It illustrates the power of education to serve as a form of personal and collective liberation. [Find it on the third floor, at call number E185.97 L5 A3]

History Professor Miriam Vivian recommends:
The Oxford English Dictionary (20 volumes)
In this one amazing reference book, readers find not only definitions of English words, but a history of the development of the meaning for each word. This major achievement took decades to complete, and is compellingly narrated by Simon Winchester in The Madman and the Professor (HarperCollins, 1998). For those who love language and history, the OED is a fascinating book to explore. If I were able to have only one book for an extended period, I’d have to seriously consider making it the OED. [Find it on the first floor in the reference collection, call number PE1625 .O87 1989. Also available online.]
Library Dean Rod Hersberger recommends:
Churchill goes to war: Winston's wartime journeys by Brian Lavery
I am interested in anything by or about Winston Churchill. He is one of the most fascinating historical characters of the 20th century. The Lavery book is good reading and an excellent piece of scholarship. [Find it on the third floor at call number DA566.9.C5 L327 2007.]

Library group holds together in California heartland

In 1999, the state set a lofty goal: Make every book in every library available to every Californian.

The plan was to develop a series of regional networks throughout the state and then establish a sharing system among the regions' academic, public, school and special libraries. Under the plan everyone in California would have the equal access to the materials in these libraries. The regions were intended to evolve into nonprofit organizations.

One of the ways the state encouraged resource sharing was by subsidizing the lending of books between libraries. The program also allowed patrons to search a full text periodical database. Unfortunately, the decline in state funding has reduced lending subsidies.

Funding declines also eroded interest in regional networks around the state. Only one of the seven regions in the state that were established under this ambitious plan remains in place. That region—known as the Heartland Regional Library Network—has survived. The region encompasses the San Joaquin Valley from Fresno to Bakersfield.

The tenacity of the librarians in the Valley has kept Heartland functioning and serving its members, despite the lack of funding. While other networks have disappeared, Heartland has added libraries to its membership. The board meets every quarter and organizes a well-attended workshop for librarians every year. The classes that are offered at the workshop are established and directed by the board. The annual event allows for the sharing of expertise by librarians from up and down the Valley. It allows librarians working in different systems to meet, learn, and share information.

CSUB librarians have participated in Heartland. Norm Hutcherson has been a presenter in a workshop on library technology and currently serves on the board of directors. Curt Asher is a past vice president and a past secretary of the organization.

Experience (continued from page 1)

...as selected books that will assist students in understanding Native American culture and history as they use The Lakota Way in their courses. The collection is also used by instructors in the First Year Experience program who can use the books to enhance their teaching.

The First Year Experience Collection has a premier location on the immediate left as patrons enter the Dezember Reading Room. Take some time to browse the collection next time you are in the library.

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.

Individual Membership

☐ Associate - $100
☐ Sustaining - $1,000
☐ Contributing - $250
☐ Benefactor - $2,500
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In memory of ___________________________ In recognition of ___________________________

Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________
Phone number (day) ____________________ (evening) _______________________

CSUB Alum ☐ Year Degree Granted _______ Degree _______

Please use the form of your name as you wish it to appear on bookplates, Library publications, and the Community Access Card. Only the named card holder will be able to use the card. The Community Access Card is not available to anyone under 18 years of age.

Please send completed form to:
The Stiern Library Associates, Walter W. Stiern Library
California State University, Bakersfield
60 Lib, 9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022
Walter W. Stern Library Associates

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