Dean Rod Hersberger announces retirement

Rod Hersberger, who has headed the California State University, Bakersfield library since 1984, announced that he will retire in December.

An Indiana native, Rod has held positions of library leadership throughout his long career, first at Northern Illinois University and then as assistant dean at the University of Oklahoma.

“I guess my proudest accomplishment was planning and overseeing the construction of the Walter Stiern Library,” Rod said.

The new library opened in 1994 and is considered one of the county’s gems of architectural design. Rod worked with architects and planners to build a library that was aesthetically pleasing but that provided a functional workspace for students. The Dezember Reading Room, with its wood paneling and natural light, in particular, stands out as the library’s showpiece of architectural innovation.

Rod changed the library’s internal structure too, altering the workflow so that librarians were free to develop innovative programs and work with students. During Rod’s tenure as dean, the library developed its widely renowned information competency program.

Wes Moore’s powerful message

Author will visit CSUB in November

Join more than 1,200 students at California State University, Bakersfield this fall in reading “The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates” an inspiring true story about two kids with the same name and similar backgrounds who were born in Baltimore in rough neighborhoods.

One of the young men grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow and business leader.

The other is serving a life sentence in prison.

It’s a powerful story of hope, the influence of family and community, opportunity, and the cultural and societal barriers to success. Students at CSUB are reading “The Other Wes Moore” as a fundamental part of their first year experiences in college.

Outreach and First-Year Experience Librarian Sarah Fay Philips is a member of the One Book, One Bakersfield (OBOB) Committee, which has joined CSUB and invited the entire community to read...
“Wherever There’s a Fight”
Civil liberties exhibit will be displayed in library

Stiern Library is sponsoring an educational exhibit that presents the evolution of civil liberties in California. It will be on display in the Stiern Library from late December through February 12. The CSUB Public History Institute is a co-sponsor.

“Wherever There’s a Fight: A History of Civil Liberties in California” is part of the California Council for the Humanities Searching for Democracy program, a thematic project that examines the meaning of democracy today. The exhibit is based on the book Wherever There’s a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California by Elaine Elinson & Stan Yogi (Heyday Books, 2009).

“We hope that this exhibit sparks some discussion and gets people thinking,” said Curt Asher, the librarian who booked the exhibition.

The exhibit explores the stories of Californians who fought for their rights and helped preserve civil liberties in the face of hardship, hostility and violence. Spanning California history from 1849 forward, the exhibit presents the idea that the fight for equality is central to democracy.

Researchers from British broadcasting consult CSUB collection

The BBC is filming a documentary that explores the impact that John Steinbeck’s 1930s novel The Grapes of Wrath has had on contemporary America.

Last July, BBC researchers consulted the CSUB library’s California Odyssey: The Dust Bowl Migration Archives to understand why Dust Bowl era families like the Joads in The Grapes of Wrath, driven from their homes in the Plains states, migrated to California seeking a better life in California and wound up jobless and homeless.

The film will focus on how the plight of these migrants resonates today with countless Americans thrown out of work due to the current economic crisis.

If you have questions concerning the California Odyssey: The Dust Bowl Migration Archives (www.csub.edu/library/specialcollection.shtml), contact Christy Gavin (cgavin@csub.edu).

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“The Other Wes Moore” this fall. Activities involving the community at all levels are happening across the county. Check out the website for events: http://onebookonebakersfieldonekern.com

Recently, middle school students involved in the Lamont Sheriff’s Activities League (SAL) received personal copies of “The Other Wes Moore,” after students participated in a discussion of personal choices led by Senator Rubio’s field representative Leticia Perez. At the event, CSUB students and recent graduates told the SAL kids their own stories about overcoming obstacles. The young SAL students shared their academic and career dreams and are excited about coming to campus and hearing Wes Moore on November 8th at CSUB.

Working with local graphic artist, Brent Eviston, Philips designed a display on the main floor of the Walter W. Stiern Library to highlight the book. The display features books from the library collection that support the themes discussed in “The Other Wes Moore.”

You are invited to participate in the culminating event on November 8th. The author, Wes Moore, will be in Bakersfield, speaking to CSUB students and the community at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 8, at the CSUB Student Recreation Center.

Stiern Library Associates members are welcome to attend an invitation-only reception with the author at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday November 8th in the Dezember Reading Room, where Wes Moore will speak and present writing awards to Kern County youth. RSVP now by calling Eileen Montoya at 654-3042 to attend the reception. Guests at the reception will be able to meet the author and get their books signed.

Please join this conversation that asks questions and searches for solutions to help Kern County young people come of age in a meaningful way.
Hersberger (continued from page 1)

grams, the Title 5 internship, and other acclaimed projects.

Rod made his mark early with a long list of publications in top library and information science journals. Much of his research involved management models and the early shifting to electronic information resources.

Under Rod’s leadership, the library was an early adopter of digital technology. During his time at CSUB, access went from a card catalog to CD towers to an evolving digital access that changes rapidly every year.

“There is nothing in a library that has not undergone complete transformation since I was a student, working in the college library. It has been an interesting time to work in libraries,” he said.

Rod holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting and a master’s degree in library science from Indiana University. He earned a master’s degree in business administration from Northern Illinois University.

“The decision-making skills, the management skills, and the financial skills I learned in business school have been very valuable to me as a library leader and manager,” Rod said.

Rod capped his career by being elected Treasurer of the American Library Association, the largest and oldest professional library association in the world, an organization with 70,000 members. The position of ALA treasurer was established in 1876 and was first held by Melvil Dewey, the father of modern library science.

Rod plans to spend more time in his favorite city, Santa Barbara, to travel and read more, and to indulge his passion for European-style auto racing and precision driving.

In recognition of Rod’s retirement and in appreciation of his many years of service to the Walter W. Stiern Library and CSUB, the Library Faculty has initiated the Hersberger Book Fund. To donate, please use the form below.

Book Fund in Honor of Retiring Library Dean, Rod Hersberger, Will Benefit CSUB Library Collection

Hersberger Book Fund Donation Form
In recognition of Rod Hersberger’s many years of service to the CSUB Walter W. Stiern Library, I would like to contribute to the Rod Hersberger Book Fund. I understand that contributions to this fund go directly to the purchase of important books and information resources for the Library’s collection, supporting the curriculum and research needs of CSUB students and faculty. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law.

Donor Name(s): ___________________________________________________________________________________

Please check the box if you would like your name to appear on the bookplate. □

Donor Mailing Address ___________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Amount: $ __________

Make check payable to the CSU Bakersfield Foundation noting on the memo line, Hersberger Book Fund.

Send the completed form and check in the enclosed envelope to:
Sandra Bozarth
c/o Walter W. Stiern Library
California State University, Bakersfield
60 LIB
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93311-1022.

Your donation is very much appreciated.

A list of donors will be provided to the honoree but amounts are confidential.
Walter W. Stiern Library Associates

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