“Walter Presents” readings, lectures, exhibits and performances

The library will be hosting a new series called “Walter Presents” a couple of times per quarter that will bring interesting speakers to the Dezember Reading Room and exhibits to the library.

The series started with an exhibit and discussion of civil liberties in California. “Wherever There’s a Fight: A History of Civil Liberties in California” is an exhibit consisting of fourteen panels that describe the fight for civil liberties in California from the Gold Rush to the post-9/11 era. The exhibit will remain on display until February 10.


Author and civil liberties activist Elaine Elinson spoke to a full room in Stiern Library for the inaugural Walter Presents Series.

Curt Asher is the new interim dean.

Interim Library Dean named

A librarian with extensive experience in library operations was named Interim Library Dean following the retirement of long-time head Rod Hersberger.

Curt Asher took the helm at Stiern Library on January 1. He has held a librarian position at CSUB since 1998 and is the author of more than a dozen research articles and book chapters. He worked at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center prior to coming to CSUB. He did his graduate work in Library Science, with an information science concentration, at the University of Texas at Austin. In Texas, Curt was a research associate for an advocacy firm. He has also worked as a newspaper reporter, winning numerous awards for writing and reporting, and as an English teacher in Asia. He served four years in the Navy as a firefighter.

“You can measure the quality of a university by its library,” Asher said. “When someone comes into Stiern library, they see an attractive space, they see book collections that strongly support the curriculum, and they see current technology that gives students access to oceans of information. That says a lot about who we are and what we care about.”

Asher said that the CSUB library faculty and staff “think big and work hard.”

“The in-depth education students get in college takes place in the library. It’s the place knowledge gets dispersed and learning gets applied,” he said. “Our librarians have developed great teaching programs and innovative projects to ensure that students get the...”

Author and civil liberties activist Elaine Elinson spoke to a full room in Stiern Library for the inaugural Walter Presents Series.
Student makes a difference by donating to library

John Stegall is always giving. He started volunteering at the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History when he was still in high school and is now its repository curator. He’s a lector at Christ the King Catholic Church in Oildale, and now, as a recent graduate, he volunteers in the Cultural Resources Management Division of the Bureau of Land Management.

John is always giving to the library also. Since he began at CSUB as a student in the fall of 2008 until he graduated Magna Cum Laude in fall of 2011, John donated 55 books and DVDs to the library.

“I collect books but I’d rather donate them to the library than have them just sitting on my shelf,” John said.

He said he always checks the library catalog before offering a book he has purchased to ensure it’s not a duplicate.

Book donations are always appreciated by the library. Once we receive a book donation, the library makes sure it doesn’t duplicate something we have, that it’s in good condition, and that it supports our curriculum. If it doesn’t meet one of those three criteria, we will normally place the book on our sale rack.

Donations to our bestseller collection are exceptions. These donations do not have to support our curriculum, but instead have to support the pleasure reading interests of our students and other patrons. Books donated to this collection have to have hardcovers and be in good condition. They can be either fiction or popular non-fiction.

When DVDs are donated, the library requires that they be closed captioned. The library also normally does not take textbooks.

The library especially appreciates the large donations it has received from the collections and estates of bibliophiles, professors, and scholars, but small gifts are important to us too.

John, who majored in history and minored in anthropology, said he will continue to donate to the library and has plans to attend graduate school in the fall.

New book club initiative launched for Black History Month

The library has established an initiative to develop and nurture more book clubs. Librarians Sandra Bozarth and Sarah Philips are the team working on the project, which they have dubbed “Walter’s Readers.” The initiative is aimed at anyone who likes to read and talk about books, whether they are students or not.

The library’s first book club will be a partnership with the African American Student Union in February.

“We want to be a resource and place for groups interested in starting book clubs,” said librarian Sandra Bozarth.

Sandra will be the resource person for the first book club and help the student group with planning and logistics.

“A book club is a great social and intellectual pleasure,” said Curt Asher, interim dean of the library. “It brings people together to talk about books they share an interest in. What could be better?”

The first book selected for discussion will be The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot, which Booklist described as “a truly astonishing story of racism and poverty, science and conscience, spirituality and family driven by a galvanizing inquiry into the sanctity of the body and the very nature of the life force.”

Some clubs on campus are celebrating February with a number of events and remembering the 1940s and the story of the Tuskegee Airmen. Natasha Harris, advisor for the African American Student Union Club, said details about the book club meetings would be announced at the kick-off event on February 1.

For more information, call Sandra Bozarth at 654-3235.

Ten new books

This column will regularly select and highlight 10 new books.

(1) Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory, and the Conquest of Everest by Wade Davis (Knopf 2011). This masterly researched book puts British climber George Mallory’s heroic and ultimately tragic effort to ascend the world’s highest mountain in 1924 into a rich historical context.

(2) “Something urgent I have to say to you”: The Life and Works of William Carlos Williams by Herbert Leibowitz (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011). A scholarly examination of the life and work of an influential 20th century poet.

(3) Moving Toward the Future of Policing by Gregory F. Treverton, et al (Rand Corporation, 2011). An analysis of policing institutions, has always stood strong,” Asher said. “I am grateful to be working with such a creative and hard-working team of people.”
Walter (continued from page 1)

issues. She teaches classes in media advocacy at Stanford Law School. She was named a Library Laureate by the San Francisco Public Library in April 2010. Elinson recounted the stories of many largely unknown Californians who faced hardship and violence in their struggle to protect their freedoms. The event was sponsored by the library, Associated Students, and the Public History Institute.

From February 21 to March 26, the library will host an exhibit created by the Museum of Tolerance on the Holocaust. The 40-panel exhibit, called the “Courage to Remember,” documents the Nazi campaign that killed six million Jews as well as Gypsies, homosexuals, the mentally ill and others between 1933 and 1945.

Dr. Thomas Meyer, of the CSUB physics department, will discuss life under the Nazi regime as his family lived it in a talk entitled “The Meyers: The Story of a Jewish-Christian Family and Their Experiences in Nazi and Post-War Divided Germany” on February 29 at 3 p.m.

During Spring Quarter, Dr. Andrew Troup, a medieval literature scholar and chair of the English Department, will discuss the History of the King James Bible. Dr. Stafford Betty, a professor of Religious Studies and author, will read from and discuss his latest novel, *Imprisoned Splendor*, a creative work based on Dr. Betty’s many years of study of mediumship and spiritualism. The novel contemplates the afterlife of a man who is killed in a plane crash.

Surviving the Nazis: Professor will speak on Feb. 29

Dr. Thomas Meyer of the Physics and Engineering Department will talk about his family’s life in Germany, from the pre-war period through the Nazi years and World War II, to the early post-war years in East Germany.

The talk is entitled “The Meyers: The Story of a Jewish-Christian Family and Their Experiences in Nazi and Post-War Divided Germany.”

His mother, Ilse, was the daughter of a Jewish drugstore owner. His father, Karl, was a photographer, journalist and writer, son of a shoemaker, and non-Jewish. He left behind several thousand diary pages and thousands of pictures documenting how the family survived through job loss, persecution, and hiding. And through all this, Ilse and Karl raised four sons, all of whom eventually earned PhDs. Several of the pictures have been shown in an exhibition in Magdeburg, home town of the Meyer family, and elsewhere.

Thomas Meyer was born in Domersleben, a small village near Magdeburg, Germany. He grew up in Hanover and Bonn. After graduating from high school he came to the US and studied Physics at UCLA where he received a PhD. He held appointments at UCLA, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Texas A&M University before coming to CSUB.

He did research in high energy physics at some of the great accelerator labs in the world: CERN in Geneva, Switzerland; DESY in Hamburg, Germany; and Fermilab, near Chicago, Illinois. This research resulted in the discovery of the gluon and the top quark. Besides teaching, Dr. Meyer is a member of the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra.

New books (continued from page 2)

methods and theory in light of new technology.


(8) *Natural history of the piano: the instrument, the music, the musicians--from Mozart to modern jazz, and everything in between* by Stuart Isacoff (Knopf, 2010). Rich discussion of the history of the piano and important pianists and composers.


(10) *Rome and the Barbarians, 100 B.C.-A.D. 400* by Thomas S. Burns (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009). Account of the complex relations between the Romans and the “non-citizens” to their north, based on the archaeological and literary record.
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