Walter Presents: Racism’s ugly past and a family’s struggle

On August 27, 1956 in Clinton, Tennessee, twelve African American students made history when they were the first to walk through the doors of a legally desegregated high school. On that day, integration in the South formally moved from the courtroom to the classroom.

Author Doug Davis was a frontline witness to history. His mother was an English teacher at the high school, and his father was a lawyer in the initial court case. Although school opened with minimal disruption, the first week ended with tanks rolling into town to keep order. Later, when the parents of the black students were reluctant to send their children to school, the author’s father was one of three who escorted the students through a gauntlet of angry racists that had gathered in protest. Davis was just eight when this happened, and the memories of those tense days were the inspiration for this story.

The conflict followed the family home and included the burning of a

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Book donation bins help support the library

Please consider donating your used books, CDs, and DVDs to help raise money for your library.

Large blue book donation bins have been established on campus near Faculty Towers, and between DDH and the Runner Café. A third bin has been placed in Parking Lot D behind Stiern Library for the convenience of those bringing books from home and unloading them from their cars.

“This is a community of readers and students. Donating extra books to the library is a great way to give to a good cause right here on campus,” said interim library dean Curt Asher.

Donations will either be added to the library’s collection or sold through a third party vendor. Money raised will go to purchase books and materials that support the CSUB curriculum.

Writer in Residence project gets big boost from PG&E

Launch of program "huge success"

The library launched a writer-in-residence program this summer and Dr. Richard Collins—a CSUB dean, writer, professor and editor—taught the project’s first series of creative writing workshops.

And thanks to a generous grant from PG&E, the program will continue on for at least the next four years.

“It was a huge success. Dr. Collins drew a diverse group of writers

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60+ club members volunteer at library

Part-time CSUB librarian and archivist Chris Livingston recruited members of the 60+ Club to help with the scanning and identification of archival photos.

Livingston, who is a full-time librarian for the Kern County Library System and a CSUB alumnus in history, recently started working as archivist at CSUB for eight hours per week on Mondays.

“The CSUB archive needs someone like Chris, a librarian who has had a lot of experience with historical materials from his work at the Beale Library downtown,” said Interim Dean Curt Asher.

Livingston wasted no time in recruiting 60+ Club members to help him with the photo collections. The images will be duplicated digitally by being scanned into a database, which will preserve them from loss. Many of the photos lack identification. Sixty+ club members are also helping to identify people and places in the pictures.

Book club success continues

By Sandra Bozarth

Walter’s Readers had their first book club meeting of the quarter and it was a great success.

Argo: How the CIA and Hollywood Pulled Off the Most Audacious Rescue in History by Antonio Mendez was selected as the first read for this quarter. If you would like to read this selection with us please join the meeting on Oct. 11th when we will discuss the book, have some snacks, and plan a trip to watch the movie.

The club plans to meet the second Thursday of each month. The next book will be The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros. We are considering reading a few of the following titles in the near future, Snow Crash, Dresden Files and The Art of Racing in the Rain.

We are open to other suggestions so feel free to join and give your input. Please check our Facebook page for meeting times and locations. If you have questions you can post them on Facebook, email or phone Sandra Bozarth at 654-3235 or sbozarth2@csub.edu

Walter’s Readers Facebook page: http://tinyurl.com/bvttvmv

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and would-be writers from across the community and campus,” said Interim Library Dean Curt Asher.

Each year, the library plans to bring a writer to campus to offer a workshop and a reading. The program provides the writer with an office and a stipend, so that work can be done on a writing project.

Collins voluntarily taught the workshop this year. Then PG&E stepped in to help, providing $20,000 to keep the project going.

“We are so grateful to PG&E for their willingness to help. They have been a wonderful community partner to us for years, always willing to step in and assist when they can,” Asher said.

Collins, who not only has a long list of literary publications in his background but as a former literary magazine editor, could direct students down the road toward publication.

“I was inspired by Dr. Collins, too, who taught me new ways to look at my writing,” said Ginger Moorhouse, owner and publisher of The Bakersfield Californian, and a participant in the workshop.

Asher said that the goal of the program is to open the library’s doors to the community and offer them an outlet for their creativity.

“There are a lot of writers around Kern County. It is cathartic and deeply satisfying for people to document their thoughts and observations in creative ways. These workshops allow people to gain skills and to build new learning communities and form new friendships in the library based on shared interests,” Asher said.

A search for the 2013 writer-in-residence is currently underway.
Ten new books
This column will regularly select and highlight 10 new books.

Islamophobia: Making Muslims the Enemy by Peter Gottschalk and Gabriel Greenberg (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008). The authors – both religious studies scholars – argue that dramatic events like 9/11 trigger ingrained fears, borne of stereotype, about Islam in the United States. Americans' ignorance of Muslim culture reduces it to caricature and fuels racism. A distorted view of Islam is presented in the media, the authors argue.

Here Lies Hugh Glass: A Mountain Man, a Bear, and the Rise of the American Nation by Jon T. Coleman (Hill and Wang, 2012). Dr. Coleman (Notre Dame) examines truth, legend, and 19th century national zeitgeist as it was expressed in the survival story of Hugh Glass, a mountain man horribly mauled by a grizzly and abandoned for dead in the upper Missouri region in 1823.

Governing Animals: Animal Welfare and the Liberal State by Kimberly K. Smith (Oxford, 2012). Smith, a political scientist from Carleton College, explores the responsibilities of the state in relation to animals. She examines the political morality of state intervention on behalf of animals and discusses justification for such intervention.

Cosa Nostra: an Illustrated History of the Mafia by Massimo Picozzi (Norton, 2012). Italian psychiatrist, criminologist, and profiler Picozzi uses photos and text to trace the history of the Mafia from its roots in Sicily to the present day. This well-researched examination of the criminal syndicate debunks much of its mythology.

Truth Machine: A Social History of the Lie Detector by G.C. Bunn (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012). Bunn, a lecturer in psychology at Manchester Metropolitan University, examines the history of the lie detector and the controversy that surrounds its use, touching on broader philosophical themes about lies and truth.

Cronkite by Douglas Brinkley (Harper, 2012). Walter Cronkite was a news icon for a generation of Americans. Historian Brinkley, a professor at Rice University and one of the nation’s best non-fiction writers, presents a carefully crafted and well-researched biography of the former CBS anchorman and war correspondent.

Wilberforce: Family and Friends by Anne Stott (Oxford University Press, 2012). William Wilberforce was an activist, evangelical Christian, and Member of Parliament, who fought for the abolition of slavery in England. Stott, a British writer and academic, examines this important figure of the Georgian era from the perspective of his philanthropist friends and family.

God’s Hotel: A Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine by Victoria Sweet (Riverhead Books: 2012). Physician and historian Sweet describes her 20-plus years at San Francisco’s extended-stay Laguna Honda Hospital, which serves the poor. The book is a thought-provoking trip into an alternative medical reality – an older reality – where medicine is practiced with slow and deliberate care.

Selected Poems by Vladimir Nabokov, edited and introduced by Thomas Karshan (Alfred A. Knopf, 2012). As the first new collection of the Lolita author’s poetry to be published in three decades, the release of this book is an important literary landmark. Nabokov wrote in both Russian and English and the early poems in Russian were translated by his son Dmitri. Mexico and Mexicans in the Making of the United States, edited by John Tutino (University of Texas, 2012). This collection of essays examines the largely ignored central role Mexico and Mexicans have played in the shaping of U.S. history, culture and society since its beginning. The editor is a professor at Georgetown.

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cross in their front yard. The family members were eyewitnesses to their hometown’s turmoil, conflict that escalated from riots and protests, culminating in the destruction of the high school with one hundred sticks of dynamite. The people of this ruptured community bore the brunt of this momentous era of societal change in America. Here, childhood memories of family and community shed their light on the story.

Doug Davis graduated summa cum laude and Phi Kappa Phi from the University of Tennessee before earning his PhD from Harvard University. He is an internationally respected musician and composer, as well as a music professor at California State University Bakersfield and the director of the Bakersfield Jazz Festival, Legends of Jazz series, and the CSUB Guest Composers series.

Dr. Davis will discuss his book on October 17 at 3 p.m. in the December Reading Room.

Other upcoming Walter Presents authors are Dr. Richard Collins, who will discuss his translation of Mushotoku Mind: The Heart of the Heart Sutra and Jeremy Adams, who will discuss his book Full Classrooms, Empty Selves.
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