Bluegrass band fills Dezember Room with old time music

The Bluegrass band Sisters Grim blasted out a selection of very hot, traditional tunes to a hundred or so literature lovers earlier this quarter.

A fiddle, a mandolin, a banjo, an upright bass, and a guitar, all brought together by the rich harmonic voice of the lead singer Angelica Grim, gave the audience a taste of the music that was playing on the radio and in the dancehalls for the Dust Bowl era migrants of the 1930s.

CSUB Musicologist, Joel Haney, kicked off the January Walter Presents event with an introduction to the music of the Great Depression, describing the evolution of songs that were originally

California Poet Laureate helps library celebrate Black History Month

Students had the rare opportunity to hear one of the nation’s top poets read from his work in February as part of the library’s celebration of Black History Month.

Al Young, who was named California Poet Laureate in 2005 by the governor, read from selections of his poetry. Young is the author of eight books of poetry and five novels. He is known for his rich melodic voice and dramatically interpretive readings of his work.

Writing in a variety of vernacular voices, he said that poetry is an art form that belongs to everyone, not just literature professors and scholars. He is particularly fond of mixing music and poetry and writing in a variety of narrative voices using common language. He says his poetry is “characterized by a marked personal and lyrical mysticism as well as a concern with social and spiritual problems of contemporary man.
Library jobs help students succeed: Hundreds have gone on to success after working in library

For hundreds of students, the Walter W. Stiern Library has bridged the gap between school and career by helping them fund their education with a job. The time they spend in their college library job is also a big help to many after they graduate, providing them with public service skills and specific experience that they can carry forward into the workplace.

When we look back over the decades, we see library student workers who have gone on to achieve great success in a variety of areas—professorships in mathematics, literature, and other fields; medicine; military and law enforcement careers; athletics; computer programming; public service; nursing; the ministry; librarianship; teaching; business, and dozens of other creative and professional career areas.

Student assistants are the library’s first line of service and many of them work for multiple years in the library. We tracked down a few former students (and one current one) and asked them about their experience working as student library employees.

Mike Nailor, Doctor of Pharmacy  

Mike is a Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Infectious Diseases Clinical Specialist at the University of Connecticut and Hartford Hospital.

Could you tell me a little about your achievements since leaving CSUB?

Basically, I don’t do what you might expect a pharmacist to do. As a clinician I see patients in the hospital that have infections or are considered to have infections and advise our physician staff on an appropriate therapy for the patient. I also help create guidelines for use of antibiotics at the hospital and then study the effects of those guidelines and attempt to publish results that other hospitals can use to improve outcomes at their hospitals.

I have had the pleasure of being an Infectious Diseases Specialist at two urban teaching hospitals: Detroit Medical Center and Hartford Hospital. At both places I am most proud of the Infectious Diseases Residency I have run and the six and almost seven graduates that I have had the pleasure of mentoring.

I started the integrated pharmacology program at Wayne State University School of Medicine and then I recruited and led other pharmacists to teach the therapeutics sections of the second year medical school curriculum.

I have been humbled by being selected as both a Preceptor of the Year and Teacher of the Year within the School of Pharmacy at the University of Connecticut.

How did working in the library help you achieve your academic or professional goals?

Since my section consisted of only me, I was fortunate enough for my supervisor to let me set my own schedule. This allowed me to take extra course work most quarters while still squeezing in work hours between classes. This helped me significantly to get into UCSF School of Pharmacy.

As a faculty member, I write a number of publications each year and as a clinician I am always looking for information that might help the patients I take care of. Working in the library gave me a better understanding of how journals categorize search terms and made me more efficient at finding information.

Do you have any particular memories of your experience as a library employee that you would be willing to share?

Johanna [Alexander] hired me and was always very supportive of the things I was trying to do. David Kosakowski, the second librarian I worked with, was one of the nicest people I have known. Sherry Bennett was my supervisor for almost the entire time I was there.

Sherry allowed me to create a Word macro program that would take data sheets and delete information we did not want and then reformat them. She then bought me a printer and stickers that could go through the old dot-matrix printers. Trusting an 18 year old kid to create something to turn 60 hours of work into 20 or less was pretty brave of Sherry, but Sherry always trusted me and for that I gave her my best efforts.


Sol is Associate Professor of Literature and Philosophy at the University of Alaska Southeast.

Could you tell me a little about your achievements since leaving CSUB?

I was at CSUB for a one-year exchange program as part of the National Student
Oral History Course offered through library

April 14, 2014, marks the 75th year since the publishing of John Steinbeck’s remarkable novel *The Grapes of Wrath*. To celebrate this, CSUB and the Walter Stiern Library will be organizing a wide variety of events and activities both on campus and in the community. One of these activities will be to conduct oral history interviews of Dust Bowl era migrants and members of the community who experienced this event. To facilitate this, the Walter Stiern Library will be offering a course in oral history that will be taught by Archivist Chris Livingston.

General Studies 114, Special Topics in Applied History: Documenting the Dust Bowl Era Migration to California, is a 2-unit course that will be offered during the spring 2014 quarter and introduces students to the process and best practices of conducting an oral history from start to finish. This course will also explain to students the process of material appraisal and acquisition as it applies to the archive. The skills that will be stressed in this course will include identifying interviewees, interview techniques, ethical and legal considerations, methods of preservation, digitization of materials, transcription, and public presentation of the finished product. This course will appeal to students interested in public history and/or archives as well as to those who are curious about the oral history process. Students taking this course will gain practical experience in project management and understanding of the issues related to documenting community history faced by public historians currently in the workforce.

**ARTstor added to library’s database collection**

Students now have access to a massive repository of important artistic images through ARTstor, a database that uses digital technology to enhance learning about the arts.

The ARTstor Digital Library is a resource that provides over 1.6 million digital images in the arts, architecture, humanities, and sciences with an accessible suite of software tools for teaching and research.

“This database brings the great masterpieces to students’ desktops,” said Curt Asher, Interim Dean of the library.

The name, ARTstor, is derived from JSTOR, a digital library initiative previously sponsored by the Mellon Foundation whose name stands for Journal Storage. ARTstor was established by Mellon in 2001 and became independent in 2004.

Art images and streaming video through our Ambrose database are examples of new ways the library is expanding its coverage of academic resources.

**Archivist tells story of architect who helped build Bakersfield’s urban landscape**

Dozens of students and historians were treated to a fascinating discussion of the education and career of architect Charles H. Biggar, whose work helped shape the Kern County region.

Archivist Chris Livingston traced and discussed Biggar’s influence on Bakersfield and California architecture as part of the Walter Presents Series last quarter.

The inspiring presentation told the life story of a young man from Danville, Ohio who developed a passion for architecture through education and apprenticeships in the United States and France.

As his career developed, cities such as Los Angeles and Bakersfield

*Archivist page 4*
Library donates old computers

Under an arrangement with the Wasco Union School District, the Walter Stiern Library was able to transfer its surplus computers to the Wasco Union School District’s Migrant Education Program.

Due to a funding anomaly, money for the migrant program cannot be used to purchase computers, so the transfer was a big help to the district.

The former reference computers were being transitioned out because they were no longer suitable for demands of college level research but were still in good shape. Rather than send the computers to surplus, the

Bluegrass (continued from page 1)
called “hillbilly music” and which steadily evolved into the country music that is indigenous to California and Bakersfield, due largely to the influence of the Dust Bowl era migration.

The library brought the Sisters Grim to campus to help kick off a much bigger, year-long CSUB celebration of the 75th anniversary of the publication of The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck’s muckraking novel that defined the Dust Bowl migration for succeeding generations. The library is also exhibiting photos from the Dust Bowl era taken by famed photographer Dorothea Lange, as part of the bigger event.

“Understanding this music is central to understanding the whole experience of the Dust Bowl migration. It is the heartfelt poetry of a people living in a hardscrabble world,” said Curt Asher, Interim Dean of the Walter Stiern Library and the host and organizer of the Music of the Great Depression event.

The band is named for Angelica Grim, the lead singer, and her sister, Christine Grim, the band’s fiddler.
http://www.thesistersgrimband.com/

For a list of CSUB events celebrating The Grapes of Wrath, go to http://www.csub.edu/ah/grapesofwrath/events/

Poet Laureate (continued from page 1)
in a technological environment.”

Young advised the mostly student audience to realize that “storytelling and poem-making are natural, but there is nothing at all natural about writing.” It is an acquired skill that takes practice and effort.

Young was born in Mississippi in 1939. He has successfully worked the writer’s trade all his adult life, earning many recognitions, awards, and fellowships, including two American Book Awards, Wallace Stegner and Guggenheim fellowships, and two Pushcart Prizes. Whittier College awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2009. He has taught writing and literature at Stanford and Berkeley and at many other universities, including Charles University in the Czech Republic. His work has been translated into more than a dozen languages.

“It was a great opportunity for the students to have Al Young here with us for a day,” said Curt Asher, interim dean of the library. “I was really happy the library was able to bring him here as part of our Walter Presents series. I really enjoy his writing.”

Archivist (continued from page 3)
benefited from his passion in the form of schools, libraries, churches, and civic structures. He was instrumental in bridging “old school” architectural design and urban planning with modern techniques.
Library jobs (continued from page 2)

Exchange (NSE) program. I completed the MA program in English at University of Alaska, Anchorage before heading to Purdue University to complete the Philosophy and Literature PhD program. While writing my dissertation, I also spent a year teaching English in two different Indiana state prisons as an adjunct faculty member of Indiana State University's now defunct Corrections Education Program. I completed my PhD in summer 2009 when I was offered the position at UAS.

How did working in the library help you achieve your academic or professional goals?

I loved working at the library. Whenever I had a paper or project assigned, I would shelve books in the subject area of my studies. I tell my own students that strolling the libraries can produce a lot of important research material, and so much of good research is serendipity.

Do you have any particular memories of your experience as a library employee that you would be willing to share?

I really loved the big reading room there. By far, though, the most memorable event of my studies at CSUB was seeing Cornel West speak there [in the Dore Theatre as part of the Kegley Institute of Ethics in 2001]. He signed my book, which is on my office shelf, and shook my hand.

Amanda Grombly, MLIS. Class of 2003 (BA) and 2007 (MA) - Amanda worked in circulation and as a librarian intern from 2001 to 2003. In addition to her master's degree in English from CSUB, she holds a Master's Degree in Library Science from San Jose State University.

Amanda is a public librarian in Visalia. What are you doing now professionally?

Currently, I work as the Electronic Resources Librarian for the Tulare County Library. I serve as the chair of the Electronic Resources Committee for the San Joaquin Valley Library System, and I was recently accepted to the 2014 Eureka! Leadership Program.

Could you tell me a little about your achievements since leaving CSUB?

While completing my MA, I worked in ITSS and in Library Circulation at CSUB. I also taught at Porterville and Taft Colleges. When I left CSUB, I took a full-time public librarian position that has allowed me to create adult programs, teach digital literacy, and present at conferences like Internet Librarian.

How did working in the library as a student assistant help you achieve your academic or professional goals?

The staff at the library has always been very supportive of the student assistants who work there. They act as mentors to help students meet their goals. The librarians and support staff of the library always encouraged me to do more, and because of them, I felt confident enough to pursue my MLIS.

Do you have any particular memories of your experience as a library student employee that you would be willing to share?

I just remember staff always pushing students to learn more, be aware, and study hard.


Josefina is a research associate for Transforming Local Communities, a consulting company.

Could you tell me a little about your achievements since leaving CSUB?

After graduating from CSUB, I obtained my M.A. in Statistics from UCSB. I then worked for a short period of time at GE Energy as a Performance Analyst. I left GE Energy to move back to Santa Barbara, and I worked for a little over three years at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC). At SBCC, I worked in the Assessment Office as an Assessment Specialist, and I also taught an introductory statistics course for one term.

How did working in the library as a student assistant help you achieve your academic or professional goals?

My job in the Document Delivery Department was my first job in an office environment. It gave me the opportunity to work with a very professional group of people; they were very pleasant and always willing to teach and help with any issues I had.

Rafael Moreno, Class of 2005. Rafael worked in the circulation department from 2001-2005. Rafael is supervisor of the Lamont and Arvin branches of the Kern County Library.

What are you doing now professionally?

One of my duties at the branch is to create programs that will encourage people in the community to visit
Library jobs (continued from page 5)

the library. Another duty of mine is outreaching and informing the public how important it is to utilize their local library. I outreach to schools, daycares, and public meetings. Since I am the only fluent Spanish speaking employee at my level or higher, I am the go to person when it comes to Spanish translations. I have interviewed on Univision and Telemundo’s local news a few times. As you can see, I do a lot of public speaking. Could you tell me a little about your achievements since leaving CSUB?

I spent the next few years focusing on making this a welcoming environment for the public. During the same time, branch statistics in programs, attendance, and library card registrations went up 5 years in a row. My program ideas gave me an opportunity to host a few staff workshops, and participate in planning panels to help with ideas for the summer reading program. I was selected to attend the American Library Association conference in Washington D.C. in 2010 by the former Director of the Kern County Library. More recently, I was able to play a role in having free WiFi installed at the Arvin and Lamont branches.

How did working in the library help you achieve your academic or professional goals?

Like many college students I didn’t know what I wanted to do once I graduated. I originally began working at Walter Stiern Library to simply have a job while in school. I remember having a class assignment that involved interviewing someone in any career I might find interesting. Since I worked in the library I would run into librarians all the time while working or during break. I decided to take the easy route and interview a librarian. I interviewed Curt Asher. I have to say that interview sparked interest in working in a library after graduation. Work experience and networking helped me with my professional goals. I want to say getting to know the librarians also helped with the hiring process for the county.

Do you have any particular memories of your experience as a library employee that you would be willing to share?

I have many great memories of working at the library. I can honestly say it was a job like no other and it is all thanks to the people who work there. My college peers and I were a family. We were always willing to help each other out. There was no problem finding a substitute to cover a shift because we all cared for each other. Some of us became friends outside of work. Our supervisors Mark [Dowdle], Aide [Zaragoza], and Vickie [Melton] did a great job at always keeping us united and keeping a positive atmosphere. There was always a celebration when someone accomplished something academically or for someone’s birthday. They respected us and we would repay them with hard work. We all felt appreciated and I believe that is why a lot of my student assistant peers and I continued working there until we graduated.

I do plan to continue my education but decided I wanted to develop clinical skills and experience first. How did working in the library help you achieve your academic or professional goals?

Working in the library helped me develop organization, leadership, teamwork, customer service, work environment and task-oriented skills. All of these skills gave me the confidence I needed in the work field, since working in the library was my first job. Performing my tasks in the library opened up my eyes to what is needed of me in my work place and showed me how to be part of a department.

Do you have any particular memories of your experience as a library employee that you would be willing to share?

My particular memories were working with my co-workers and bosses. Even with a busy schedule, my bosses were always flexible and easy going. They made learning and working fun.

Jiovanni Garcia, current student, class of 2014. She works in the circulation department. Jiovanna has studied in Europe through the CSUB exchange program and is highly involved in promoting international education, including being selected for a systemwide CSU committee on international programs at the Chancellor’s Office in Long Beach.

What committee do you serve on for the CSU?

I serve on the Academic Council of International Programs, I am on the Executive Committee and the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Could you tell me briefly about your travels overseas and how it benefited you?
Library jobs (continued from page 6)

I studied abroad between 2011 and 2013. My first year was in Aix-en-Provence, a small Mediterranean town north of Marseilles and my second year I spent in Paris studying at Paris XII Creteil. I also taught as an English language assistant for TAPIF (Teaching Assistantship in France). While I was in Paris at Lycee Marie-Curie, Dr. Joanne Schmidt in the French department taught there too. My years abroad greatly benefited my language fluency in French and influenced my decision to get my PhD in Modern European History with a specialty in 19th and 20th century France.

What are your career plans?
My career plans are to get a PhD in Modern European History with an emphasis in 19th and 20th century France, particularly focusing on anti-Semitism and women in society.

How did working in the library help you achieve your academic or professional goals?
Working at the library has helped a lot in gaining work experience working with the public. Having to know and get accustomed to library research techniques has helped me a lot as a history major and a potential history grad student. I do not know if I would have been able to do so many research papers without already being accustomed of the library homepage and research databases.

Do you have any particular memories of your experience as a library employee that you would be willing to share?
My fondest memories of working at the library are the times I have had with my co-workers, including my supervisors. I work, and have worked, with the greatest group of people. I consider them my Circulation family and there is never a dull day at work with them around.
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