Library Partners with Agriculture Group on Internship Project

**Historical Research Center and Cotton Growers working to preserve important history**

Established in 1922 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Shafter Research Station had a big impact on Kern County farming and the cotton industry. In 2012, when the USDA withdrew as manager of the station, the San Joaquin Valley Quality Cotton Growers Association (SJQCGA) stepped in to ensure that research continued on the 20 acre site, which is surrounded by 60 acres of specially configured plot land.

Much of the research that occurred at the station had to do with a variety of short-staple cotton known as Acala, which is considered the finest in the world and is only grown in the San Joaquin Valley.

Stiern Library has partnered with the SJQCGA to help document the history of the Research Station and its impact on Kern County agriculture. With funding from the SJQCGA, the library will be employing an intern in a one of a kind opportunity.

“This is an example of our library partnering with a community group to provide both a public service and an educational opportunity for a student,” said Curt Asher, Interim Dean.

According to the archives librarian and curator of the library’s Historical Research Center Chris Livingston, the intern will have the opportunity to organize and develop a new community archive. Livingston will be mentoring the student-intern through the project, especially in the areas of collection evaluation, archival arrangement and description, and the digitization of records and photos.

“We need the right person for this project, someone who is detail-oriented and innovative, capable of working alone,” Livingston said. “The main thing though is an enthusiasm for local history and an ability to learn new skills.”

The internship is paid and begins summer quarter and will continue through summer 2016.

For more information contact Chris Livingston at 654-3253 or clivingston@csub.edu. The deadline for applications is Friday, June 5 at 5 p.m.

John C. Hampsey, Author of *Kaufman’s Hill*, Named 2015 Writer in Residence

John Hampsey is the 2015 Walter Stiern Library PG&E Writer in Residence, and will be offering a workshop to community and campus writers in the library on June 25 from 9 to 4.

The Writer-in-Residence program began in the summer of 2012, when Arts and Humanities Dean Richard Collins agreed to serve as the library’s first writer, and to provide the summer workshop to students and community members. PG&E saw the potential and decided to partner with the library on the project.

“With PG&E’s help, we have been able to bring writers Angie Chau and Marissa Silver to campus to provide us with a spring reading and to teach a summer workshop,” said Interim Library Dean Curt Asher. “We’re all very happy John Hampsey will be working with us this year.”

He made his first visit to campus May 7 to read from *Kaufman’s Hill* for an enthusiastic audience.

Hampsey has a long and distinguished career as a short story writer and essayist and is currently working on a novel. His current book *Kaufman’s Hill* has recently been published. Hampsey teaches literature at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He earned his Ph. D. at Boston College.

Set in Pittsburgh in the 1960s, the coming of age memoir has been described by authors and reviewers as “spellbinding” and “sensitive” and the “best book written on American boyhood in decades.”

“We are again bringing a talented writer to CSUB in the summer to instruct and help our local writers. I hope everyone who writes fiction or memoir or who harbors such a desire will take advantage of this great opportunity,” said Asher, who established the program.

Seven questions for John Hampsey

1. **What made you want to be a writer?**
   
   It started in college, being exposed to so many great writers. I remember being especially fascinated by writing styles, how each writer finds a way to take command of language in...
The Brief
Lessons in Dissent comes to library

Documentary filmmaker Matthew Trombadori honed his film about dissent and protest in Hong Kong to CSUB recently. Trombadori, an Oxford-educated documentarian, stopped at Stern Library as part of a national tour to promote the film, which focuses on the stories of Joshua Wong and Ma Jai, the high-school-aged leaders of a major protest movement against the Hong Kong government’s education policies.

The event drew a small crowd of students, faculty, and community attendees to the December Reading Room to view the film and discuss it with the director. Trombadori asked Stern about the movement and the ethical questions it raises.

Trombadori
Southend-on-Sea, England

Trombadori interviewed Wong and Ma Jai, both of whom were 14 at the time of the protests in 2014. "They’re kids, they’re just kids," Trombadori said. "It was a time when they had no idea what they were doing, and now they’re the most recognized young people in Asia."

The Huntington, one of the richest libraries in the world, owns the collection of the late William B. Strobridge, an influential Huntington graduate and board member known for his passion for Hong Kong’s “Occupy Movement.” Trombadori said that Strobridge’s support for the movement provided him with the motivation to go on tour with the film.

While the documentary is not yet available on streaming platforms, it can be watched at the Stern Library. Trombadori said that his goal is to continue promoting the film on a grassroots level. "The film is not about one person or one event," Trombadori said. "It’s about the second generation of Hong Kong people who are coming of age."
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