Library Event Draws Hundreds

Grape Strike Symposium Televised Nationally

A spillover crowd packed the Dezember Reading Room on September 25 for a symposium on the Delano Grape Strike of 1965, a labor history milestone that divided neighbors and brought national attention to the United Farm Workers Union.

C-SPAN recorded the symposium and broadcast it nationally in October. The broadcast is available at http://www.c-span.org/series/?ahtv.

About 350 people attended the symposium live or in one of two spillover rooms with streaming video.

“We tried to explore some perspectives of the movement that are not as well known, especially the vital contribution of the Filipino farmworkers and organizers,” said Curt Asher, Dean of the Walter W. Stiern Library. “This was the fiftieth anniversary. We had great speakers and lively debate. It was a remarkable success, due largely to the support and hard work of everyone involved.”

Asher acknowledged that the Grape Strike and the events and struggles of that era still resonate with many people in the community.

“This event was more than an academic conference. The Grape Strike and the struggle that surrounded it are part of people’s lives in this region. We had a lot of veterans of the struggle here, some as speakers and many, many more in the audience,” Asher added.

Speaking were scholars from around the country, largely shepherded to CSUB by Dr. Oliver Rosales of Bakersfield College. Dr. Dawn Mabalon (San Francisco State University), Dr. Mario Sifuentez (University of California, Merced) and Dr. Todd Holmes (Stanford University) discussed the history and legacy of the Grape Strike. Authors Dr. Matt Garcia and Miriam Pawell, whose works have been considered critical of the UFW, discussed their research. Filipina farmworker activist and Grape Strike veteran Lorraine Agtang and UFW cofounder Dolores Huerta both spoke.

“We were honored that Lorraine Agtang and Dolores Huerta could take part in our symposium,” said Asher, who coordinated and moderated the event.

The Delano grape strike was a labor...
January 26 Event Highlights Climate Change and Drought

What is the relationship between global climate change and California’s drought? What effect are climate abnormalities having in California?

A panel of experts will be discussing these issues at Stiern Library on Tuesday, January 26 at 7 p.m.

The speakers — Dr. Rob Negrini, Brian Pitts, and journalist Jane Braxton Little — bring perspectives grounded in first-hand research.

Jane Braxton Little is a photo journalist who specializes in environmental and resource issues. A Harvard alumnus, she lives in rural Plumas County and is a contributing editor at Audubon. She has published in numerous national magazines, and is a longtime Sierra correspondent and environmental columnist for The Sacramento Bee. She has written extensively about the effects of climate change and drought on forest fires in the west.

Dr. Rob Negrini teaches geology at CSUB and is a collaborator with the Desert Research Institute on a project exploring and documenting the past 20,000 years of streamflow from the Sierra to the Central Valley. He is director of the California Energy Research Center, as well as the National Science Foundation’s CSUB Center of Research Excellence in Science and Technology. He has been named both CSUB’s Outstanding Faculty Researcher and CSUB’s Outstanding Professor.

Brian Pitts is a geologist who teaches the CSUB course “Water in the West.” Previously, he served as Chief Environmental Health Specialist – Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste Programs – for the Kern County Public Health Department.

Grape (Cont’d from page 1)

strike initially launched by Filipino workers and grew into a consumer boycott of non-union harvested grapes that concluded in 1970 with a collective bargaining agreement with grape growers. It was a major success for the Cesar Chavez-led UFW and its members, and a milestone in the history of American labor.

Other events at Bakersfield College and the Forty Acres (the first UFW headquarters) in Delano were held over the three days of events.

The three-day series of events was capped by a performance of the Gary Soto play, In and Out of Shadows, in the Dore Theatre, a project made possible by the Public History Institute, the library, and Bakersfield College.

Grape Strike Exhibit Showcases a Complex History

Fifty years ago, farmworkers in the grape fields of Kern County walked off the job and launched an international boycott that, after five years of struggle, raised wages and improved working conditions. The strike resulted in the merger of two largely ethnic unions – Filipino and Latino – into the United Farmworkers Union.

The library’s Historical Research Center showcases the Delano Grape Strike with an exhibit that has drawn praise from scholars, students, and veterans of the struggle from all ideological perspectives.

“We have been overwhelmed by the positive response,” said Historical Research Center head and librarian-archivist Chris Livingston, who directed the project. “I give our students all the credit. They performed the in-depth research, curation, and design and devoted hundreds and hundreds of hours to getting it right.”

The complexities of the events are distilled into a nuanced and balanced interpretation of the history, told through interpretive panels, video clips, photographs, documents and ephemera. The museum-quality exhibit was constructed by student coordinator and lead Daniel Anderson, and exhibit team and student researchers Kim Kartinen, Shannon Banks, Marcy Fosdick, Carissa Hicks, Donato Cruz, Lance Nelson, and Philena Goscinski.

“It took a lot of research,” history master’s student Kim Kartinen told The Bakersfield Californian. “The main part was learning creative ways to teach people an important part of Kern County history.”

Livingston said he was very proud of the quality of work coming out of the Historical Research Center, which was established in January 2014 and has already seen two of the Center’s interns move to archives jobs. The HRC gives students opportunities to practice library-related public history work such as oral history interviewing, exhibit construction, research and curation, historic preservation, and digital storage and scanning.

“We’re preserving our past and giving students practical opportunities at the same time,” Livingston said. The exhibit will be on display through the end of the year.

New Video Streaming Service

Kanopy is a video streaming service that provides access to hundreds of instructional and feature films. In addition to the Criterion Collection, videos from publishers like Psychotherapy.net and PBS are available via this platform. The Walter W. Stiern Library at CSUB plans to launch a PDA or Patron Driven Acquisition plan to make select collections of the Kanopy catalog available for students, faculty, and staff to use for instruction. Rather than having to request a particular film for purchase to use in class, faculty can access videos on the web in their smart classrooms, show them in class, and refer students to the transcript of the video.

Most videos in the Kanopy catalog include closed captioning and transcripts to facilitate student and faculty use of the resources. Collection Development coordinator, Amanda Grombly commented, “Kanopy offers a modern solution to media selection for instruction and access to these materials by students in the classroom and in the distance education environment.” Films are purchased once they are viewed several times, and videos outside the library’s selected collections can be recommended for purchase. To take a look at Kanopy in action, check out csub.kanopystreaming.com.
The Brief

Library hosts Bob, top essayists

Writer, philanthropist, comedian, and Jeopardy champion Bob Harris met with Stiern Associates and special guests at a library event last month. Harris told the hundred or so guests that the library in the small Ohio town where he grew up was his window to the broader world and helped shape his notions about the importance of diversity and about using his influence to better the world.

Harris is the author of The International Bank of Bob, a book about his experience with Kiva.com, a micro-lending agency, and tells the deeply moving personal stories and struggles of the people the organization has helped. He was a guest of the Runner Reader Program, a shared book program led by Dr. Emerson Case of the English Department. That evening, Harris met with the CSUB student body in the Icardo Center.

An essay contest inspired by the book brought top high school and college writers to the library to share the stage with Harris. The contest was open to CSUB, area community colleges and high school students.

First place college category winner Klarisse Vela won the $300 prize. Her essay, “Just Microfinance It”, discusses the impact small dollar loans can have on struggling people in impoverished countries.

“One $25 Kiva loan may not seem much of a help, but collectively taken, it can boost a sari-sari store in the Philippines. More importantly, its owner may even be able to afford her child’s tuition fees,” the freshman CSUB nursing student wrote.

Other winners included high school students Amanda Robinson, Hazel Lozano, and Jasmine Cisneros, and CSUB students Emily Lopez and Madison Parks.

Building a learning space

The long hours of planning are over and Phase One of the remodel project is almost underway. The entire reference area is scheduled to be disassembled over winter break and replaced with a laptop study area.

“The recent gift we received is giving us the opportunity to create the learning spaces our students need. A laptop study space will be open for business in early 2016, hopefully when CSUB starts winter quarter,” said library Dean Curt Asher.

The project is the first of several remodeling jobs that the library is undertaking to create more study space for students.

“We want the library to meet the needs of 21st century students in the way that book stack-centered libraries met the needs of students in the 19th and 20th centuries,” Asher said. “That means carefully analyzing our students’ information needs and asking the question, ‘Is it obsolete?’ If it is obsolete, let’s change it.”

While there is still a need for reference books, many have been replaced by digital resources. The important reference books that are still being used are being housed in the area surrounding the reference computers and many others are now residing in the third and fourth floor book stacks.

The library received a gift over the summer of $1 million as an inheritance from the estate of a local man who requested anonymity. About half the money is being used to remodel portions of the library and the other half is being held in the endowment. The interest on the money in the endowment will be used to help the library buy books and pay for public events in the future.

“Find Your Way, Three Hours a Day” campaign launched

New library administrative professional Kathy Driscoll is working with the CSUB Associated Students on a campaign to encourage students to devote three hours a day to their studies.

The goal of the project is to help students understand that being a college student is a full-time job.

Experts say that to succeed in college, a full-time student needs to devote 25 to 30 hours per week to studying.

As the location most conducive to studying on the CSUB campus, the library is the place students recognize for fulfilling those study hours.

Students who spend quality time in the library have a better chance of proceeding toward graduation than those who do not. Time spent studying directly correlates to student success.

By offering late night hours, the library is providing students with a place to fully engage with the curriculum and study for extended periods of time.

Upcoming Walter Presents

Wednesday, January 20, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Bruce D. Friedman, MSW, Ph.D., Professor, CSUB

Author of “Public Health, Social Work and Health Inequalities”

Stiern librarians and staff win first prize in the CSUB Halloween Costume Contest!”
Walter W. Stiern Library Associates

**CHARTER MEMBERS**
Johanna and Tim Alexander, Associate, in recognition of George and Pat Olson/Bob and Millie Alexander
Harvey Brockmeyer, Associate, in memory of Nancy Cook
Rudy Carvajal, Associate
Michael and Dona Chertok, Associate
Fred and Marilyn Dorer, Associate
Anita DuPratt, Associate
Dr. Charles and Judy Fritch, Associate
James and Ruby Gilmore, Associate
Rod and Susan Hersberger, Sponsor, in memory of Pat Robles
George and Janice Holder, Associate, in memory of Norman and Doris Luttrell
Jacquelyn A. K. Kegeley, Sponsor, in memory of Dr. Charles W. Kegeley
Jerome Kleinsasser and Jeanne Harrie, Sponsor
Robert C. Marshall, M.D., Associate
Gloria McLean, Associate
B.J. Moore, Associate
Joseph M. Nunez, D.D.S., Contributing
David and Linda Ost, Associate
Margaret Philippe, Associate
Anthony L. Rausin, Sustaining
Clarke and Laura Sanford, Associate
Sunshine Scofield Family Trust, Associate
Jeffrey Spencer, Sponsor, in memory of David G. Spencer
William and Laura Wolfe, Associate

**MEMBERS**
Robert C. Abrams, Contributing
Brad Asher, Associate
Curt Asher, Associate
Sherry Bennett, Associate, in memory of Leroy Hughes
Sandra Bozarth, Associate
Helen Ingle Brubaker, Associate, in memory of Goldie B. Ingle
Carolyn Bunker, Associate
Dolores Cerro Trust, Patron
Lois Chaney, Benefactor
John Coash, Associate
Tony M. Deeths, Associate
Rayburn and Joan Dezember, Sustaining
Genevieve Fabrizius, Associate
FLICS, Phil and Edna Neufeld, Sustaining Associate
Camille Gavin, Associate, in recognition of Christy Gavin
Christy Gavin, Associate, in recognition of Brittany, Kendra, Claire and Tommy

James and Roberta George, Associate, in memory of J. Herbert George
Vernell and Christina (Stiern) Goehring, Associate, in memory of Walter and June Stiern
Gail-Mania Gude, Associate
Mayor Harvey Hall, Associate
Gene and Margaret Hersberger, Associate, in memory of Phyllis Hersberger
Les Hersberger, Sustaining
Arthur D. Johnson, Associate, in memory of Walter W. Stiern
Peggy Leapley, Contributing
Bruce and Laurie Maclin, Associate
William McLean and Gloria McLean, Associate, in memory of Walter Stiern
President Horace and Barbara Mitchell, Sponsor
Ted Murphy, Associate
Charles Palmer, Associate
Kathryn A. Stark, Sustaining
David and Cynthia Stiles, Sustaining
Jim Weddle, Sponsor, in memory of Franklin Rosenlieb
Theo and Marko B. Zaninovich, Sustaining

---

To become a member of Stiern Associates, go to www.csub.edu/library and select the “donate” link at the bottom of the page.