Library café opens, new 24-hour room inaugurates change

Walter’s, the new library café, opened on the first day of winter quarter with a ribbon cutting ceremony, launching a new era in library services.

“Changes like this help make the library the place we want to be, rather than a place we have to be,” said Interim Dean Curt Asher, in his remarks at the opening ceremony.

Asher began working on the café project with Mike Neal, Vice President of Business and Administrative Services, more than a year ago. The concept went through several iterations before being launched. Dr. Thomas Wallace, Vice President of Student Affairs, secured funding, and the facilities department and campus food vendor Aramark supplied the know-how and personnel to make it happen.

“This is something that students have wanted for a long time,” Asher said.

Jeremy Adams gives impassioned defense of teaching

Teacher and author Jeremy Adams passionately argued before a packed Dezember Reading Room that the teaching profession must beware of surrendering its humanity to technological innovation.

Adams is the author of a book he said began as a summer meditation on the profession to which he had devoted 10 years of his life. It ended in *Full Classrooms, Empty Selves: Reflections on a Decade of Teaching in an American High School*, a book that has had a wide-reaching influence in the region.

In a review of the book, Congressman and CSUB alum Kevin McCarthy said *Full Classrooms, Empty Selves* “should be required reading for people of all political persuasions.” CSUB English professor Kim Flachmann called it “a brilliant mid-career expose.”

Adams drew a standing ovation from the audience.

Adams’ 45-minute presentation discussed the dire consequences of a world in which technology replaces teachers. Rather than being used as a tool for teaching, technology is being applied as a substitute for human instruction, he said. While technology can deliver information in unparalleled ways in the Digital Age, Adams warned that it is no substitute for the care and compassion that can only be the product of human interaction. Education, he
Stiern Associates meet acclaimed author at library reception

An invitation-only reception in the Dezember Reading Room gave invitees an opportunity to meet renowned writer Sandra Cisneros in November. The internationally recognized author was on campus as the featured writer for the First Year Experience program. After the library reception, she addressed the student body at an assembly in the Icardo Center.

Stiern Library Associates were invited to the afternoon reception and many attended. At the reception, Ms. Cisneros read an essay about life as a child in a Latino family in Chicago. She also commented on the importance of libraries and librarians as protectors of the right to free expression. Like many authors, Ms. Cisneros has a long and close association with libraries. As a child in Chicago, in a home with nine people in it, the library was the first truly quiet space she’d encountered.

“It was the first time I found a room of my own that was made for thinking and the imagination,” she said, of the Chicago library she discovered as a child.

Ms. Cisneros has earned many notable awards for her fiction and poetry and has received numerous fellowships and honors. Best known as the author of The House on Mango Street, which has sold over two million copies since it was published 25 years ago, she has published several other books including Caramelo, Loose Woman and Have You Seen Marie? Her collection of short stories, Woman Hollering Creek, is also widely acclaimed. Her books have been published internationally and translated into more than twenty languages.

“Having a great writer like Sandra here to meet and talk with us was a real honor. These kinds of events allow the library to share the broader national literary culture with Bakersfield and CSUB. It was a great event,” said Curt Asher, Interim Dean of the Library.

The Cisneros event was the fifth author reception the library has held with the First Year Experience, a program led by Drs. Emerson Case and Isabel Sumaya that transitions students to college life. One part of the program is the common reader, which gives students an opportunity to experience a book together. The program then brings the author to campus to meet with students.

During the reception, Ms. Cisneros, Dr. Case, and CSUB President Horace Mitchell presented awards to student essay contest winners from Frontier High School and CSUB. The essays were prompted by the students’ reading of The House on Mango Street.

New chairs create better study environment

Almost half the chairs in the Walter Stiern Library were broken and damaged beyond repair over the course of their 17-year lifetimes and in the fall 290 were replaced so that students would be able to fully utilize the tables and desks in the library.

A student focus group was used to determine which chairs would serve them best.

“These new chairs update the look of the study areas and are much more comfortable to sit and study in than the old ones were,” said librarian Sandra Bozarth, circulation coordinator.

The library hopes to slowly replace worn and damaged furnishings over the course of the next few years.

Café (continued from page 1)

“It is an example of what can happen when we think progressively and work together.”

The café required a conversion of the library’s 24-hour room to a dining and study area. Building on a student campaign led by student Sasan Jahanian, Dr. Wallace funded the library’s 24-hour room conversion as a new study and eating area.

The second floor of the 24-hour study room has coffee house style lounge furniture, while the lower level has movable study tables that can be reconfigured to meet student needs.

A percentage of the proceeds from the café will be split between Student Services and the library in the future.

Asher, President Horace Mitchell, Associated Students President Hernan Hernandez, and student leader Sasan Jahanian all cut the ribbon at the ceremony, which drew the President’s Cabinet, faculty, staff, and students.
The library website gets a facelift

During fall quarter 2012, a complete redesign of the library’s homepage was unveiled thanks to the excellent work of the Web Committee. The committee consisted of four librarians, Johanna Alexander, Sandra Bozarth, Kristine Holloway, and Ying Zhong as the Web coordinator.

Stiern Library serves CSUB faculty and students as an important information portal. Wherever the users are—in the dorm, at home, in the library, or on their iPhone—the library’s website is often where people embark on their journey of information seeking. They go to the library homepage to find out if a book or DVD is available, or if they can access databases, or locate an academic journal. Patrons also use the website for numerous functions such as renewing materials, requesting an item via Interlibrary Loan, contacting librarians when they need assistance, or just looking up library hours, policies and events.

The first challenge the Web Committee had to face was how to present the library’s in-print and online resources to the young generation of students, who are used to interfaces like Google and Facebook. Our previous homepage was well-organized, but the page was filled with too many links and plain text. If users are overwhelmed by the homepage, they might perceive the library to be too complex and become frustrated.

Sandra Bozarth suggested using icons to break up the text, which grabbed viewers’ attention instantly by helping them to browse the site to find what they need. We also found pictures are more eye-catching and attractive to young students, who are exposed to multimedia like never before.

The new website also embeds a quick search box at the center of the homepage. This widget will allow users to perform a keyword search across multiple databases simultaneously, instead of having to access each one separately. Overall the number of pages was also reduced by integrating multiple pages to save users’ time when navigating the website.

Since the new design was introduced in Fall Quarter 2012, we have received positive feedback in abundance from our faculty and students at CSUB. Their comments were simple and straight—on the new website they can find what they wanted quickly and easily.

Considering a growing number of users will be accessing information via their mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets, our next goal is to research the feasibility of launching a mobile-friendly version of the library’s website.

Japanese foundation helps build Asian book collection

The Nippon Foundation donated a collection of important books about Japanese culture and history to Stiern Library. The books were awarded to CSUB in a competitive grant process.

“This will be invaluable in supporting our program in East Asian history and especially our teaching of Japanese history,” said CSUB History Department Chair Jeanne Harrie.

The boxes of books began arriving from Asia in January.

The Tokyo-based Nippon Foundation was established in 1962 as a philanthropic non-profit. Its aim is to help achieve a more peaceful and prosperous world.

“This is a very generous donation and will be very much appreciated by our students,” said interim library dean Curt Asher, who applied to the foundation for the grant.

The Nippon Foundation previously helped the library with its Japan collection in 1999.

Adams (continued from page 1)

argued, is built of direct mentoring relationships that require a teacher’s physical presence in the daily lives of students.

Adams is a CSUB alumni and a teacher at Bakersfield High School. He is also an adjunct professor of political science at CSUB. His writing has appeared in a variety of publications, including The Sacramento Bee, The Bakersfield Californian, The Writers Post Journal and The Storyteller. In 2012, he was named Kern County Teacher of the Year and earned the Beautiful Bakersfield Award for Education. He has previously earned the Jim Burke Rising Star Teaching Award. He is a semifinalist for California Teacher of the Year in 2013. Adams founded the Earl Warren Cup Constitutional Competition for high school students.

A recording of his presentation can be viewed on the Stiern Library website.
Walter W. Stiern Library Associates

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