

# Stiern Library NEWSLETTER

California State University,  
Bakersfield

## Researchers in CSUB archives earn Governor’s Award for historic preservation



**Librarian Chris Livingston addresses a packed hall at the Governor’s Award reception in Sacramento.**

An archives project from the Walter W. Stiern Library was honored by the office of Governor Jerry Brown with a 2016 Governor’s Historic Preservation Award. Librarian and archivist Chris Livingston accepted the award for the library on behalf of the research team at a ceremony on November 10 in Sacramento.

The project—*Interpreting the Drawings and Career of Architect John P. Pederson*—was described by the California Office of Historic Preservation as “an exceptional example of historic preservation efforts on behalf of California’s cultural heritage.”

Historian John Edward Powell, student Bram Livingston, and donor Konstantine Shaw undertook the complex project last year, which involved the discovery,

inventory, description, and preservation of the Pederson papers. Through extensive research, they established provenance of the items and pieced together the rich and varied history of Pederson’s career.

In his acceptance speech, Chris Livingston described the ways in which CSUB students, working through the library, are taking part in important historic preservation projects.

Lead researcher Powell is a historic preservationist who taught in the CSUB Fine Arts Program during the mid-1970s, after which he had a long career as a Stanford-trained architectural historian in Fresno and Seattle.

“John’s work has really opened the

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## New system will change the way libraries do business—Roll out scheduled for summer

Imagine a shared system that will allow 23 university libraries to manage tens of millions of books and articles and easily share resources with one another. Now imagine the level of planning and technical work that goes into making it happen.

CSUB Librarian Amanda Grombly has been serving as project manager for Stiern Library’s part in one of the largest and most innovative collaborations in the history of libraries: the CSU system-wide transition to a Unified Library Management System called Alma, and its search interface, Primo.

Led by the system wide Council

of Library Deans (COLD) and an implementation team at the Chancellor’s Office, the project is in its second year of development and will be online for CSUB users in the summer of 2017.

“This project will definitely change the world of the CSU libraries. Both technology and policy will never be the same,” Grombly said.

Internally, the work flow will be altered, which is giving libraries across the system opportunities to realign staff duties for more efficient service.

“This change is intended to be disruptive for libraries,” said Curt Asher,

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## In library, religion and politics were mixed

The school year's first Walter Presents event drew a standing room crowd, largely because of its subject matter. The panel was entitled "The Election, Politics and God."

"I was always told that there are two things you shouldn't discuss in polite company: politics and religion. Oops," Library Dean Curt Asher joked, as he introduced the panel to the crowded room.

The event was cosponsored by the Institute of Religion, Public Policy, and Education and gave three CSUB political scientists an opportunity to share insights on campaigning, political language, and the political reality of the electoral system prior to the election.

The library experimented with a new seating format, setting up the room so that spontaneous discussion groups were established. Dr. Jeanine Kraybill, one of the speakers who helped organize the event, came up with the idea of discussion groups as a means of

engaging students.

In addition to Dr. Kraybill, who discussed the use of religious language by candidates, Vice Provost David Schecter and Dr. Mark Martinez spoke. Dr. Schecter explained the electoral system and the complex reality behind US election policy. Dr. Martinez, who in addition to his role as a professor, is a political radio program host and television news analyst, discussed the role of evangelicals in presidential elections.

The event also launched the opening of the library's most recent exhibit – "Winner Takes All: The Race to the White House" – in the Historical Research Center. The exhibit, created by the HRC's student exhibit team and led by archivist Chris Livingston, examined thousands of pieces of campaign and political ephemera donated to the library by the estate of the late Dr. Charles McCall, a founding member of the CSUB faculty and

former Ford Administration appointee.

The panel discussion was so popular that the library had to turn people away at the door because the DeZemmer room was full to legal capacity.

The audience paid rapt attention to the panelists and remained involved for about 45 minutes after the speakers concluded, asking questions and engaging in discussion.

Librarian Terezita Overduin established a Twitter feed for the event, which allowed attendees to Tweet comments and questions throughout. Afterwards, she launched a webpage with information and resources relating to the panel.

## Library adds three new people

The library added two new faculty librarians and a night coordinator this fall.

**Andrea Anderson** has been a part of the CSU Bakersfield community since 2010. She received her B.A. in History from CSUB in 2012 before deciding to pursue a career in librarianship. While in graduate school at San Jose State University, Andrea also volunteered in the archives at the Stiern Library. In the fall of 2015, she interned with the CSUB librarians and graduated with her Master's degree in Library and Information Science. In August of 2016, Andrea was hired on as Walter Stiern's Library Instruction Coordinator and quickly became immersed in the busy campus community. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, and spending time with her growing family.



**Terezita Overduin** is CSUB's new Outreach and Public Programming Librarian. She comes to Bakersfield from Concordia University, Irvine, where she was the Outreach and Instruction

Librarian. She is passionate about her work as a librarian and looks forward to reaching out to the campus community to create stronger ties and more engagement with students.

**Jovanni Garcia** is an alumni of CSUB's class of 2014. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and French. As a student, she worked as a library assistant at the Walter Stiern Library and studied and worked abroad in France (Aix-en-Provence and Paris) for two years. She is fluent in French, Spanish, and English. Jovanni enjoys traveling, reading, and being outdoors. Jovanni's leadership as night coordinator allows the library to stay open for extended hours for students.



### **Award (Cont'd from page 1)**

community's eyes to the contributions of an important 20th century architect," said Curt Asher, dean of the CSUB library, who nominated the three for the award.

Born in Norway in 1888, Pederson owned an architectural firm in Beverly Hills focusing on residential design. He designed homes for many of the rich and famous of his era. He also designed a number of houses in the San Joaquin Valley, including the Barnett house on Elm Street in Bakersfield. During World War II, he worked with the US Maritime Commission on the design of concrete ships.

The Pederson papers are housed in Walter W. Stiern Library and are among a number of important collections that archivist and curator Chris Livingston has obtained for the library's Historical Research Center.

"Understanding Pederson is very important to understanding the architectural history of California," Livingston said. "Obtaining his papers and getting this important collection into our archives has really been a coup for the campus and the region."

Included in the collection are sketches, drawings, correspondence, blue prints, photos, renderings and even a plan for a subway system in Beverly Hills.

## Generous gifts from two donors touch thousands

Recent legacy gifts from two generous donors are transforming the library.

“In their final acts on earth, two donors touched the lives of thousands of CSUB students for decades to come when they left their legacy gifts to the library,” said Library Dean Curt Asher in his remarks at a ribbon-cutting event for the Peter R. Harbach Study Area earlier this fall.

The event, which honored Lois Chaney and Peter Harbach, provided friends of the donors with an opportunity to talk about the people they knew and loved.

Ms. Chaney had been a member of the campus community for decades. She was the widow of CSUB history professor Homer Chaney. A long-time supporter of the library, she enjoyed talking about books and also donated a large collection of books and art to the library.

“Lois told me that she was interested in leaving us this gift because she wanted to do something for the students,” Asher remarked. “I like to think that every day, one of our students encounters some piece of information, or forms a new relationship, or comes to some new conclusion that will change their life and the world around them. I think that’s what the library offers, the place and resources that change lives and open doors of opportunity. That’s what her gift provides.”

Asher described the gifts as transformational.

The Harbach Study Area completion is the initial part of the first phase of the four-phase library renovation that was celebrated at the ribbon-cutting. Provost Jenny Zorn spoke, as did Peter Harbach’s close friends, and ASI President Alex Dominguez.

The Harbach Study Area provides 97 new seating spaces on the first floor. With many reference books, government documents, and legal materials accessible online, bookshelves on the first floor holding those materials were removed and replaced with carrels and soft chairs.

Architects are drafting renovations to the second, third, and fourth floors with a library design committee.

The renovation is intended to maintain the library’s current classical design elements. The building was awarded in 1994 by architects for its design when it was constructed.



*A ribbon-cutting ceremony inaugurated the Harbach Study Area. Pictured are Provost Jenny Zorn, Library Dean Curt Asher, and members of the Ward family, who were close friends of Peter Harbach.*

## Hackathon: Students gain experience from library tech competition “Electric Bookworm”

By Alyssa Haas  
December 5, 2016

CSU Bakersfield along with the Kern Innovation and Technology (KIT) Community hosted its first university hackathon “Electric Bookworm” November 18-20, 2016 inside the Science III and Walter Stern Library buildings, bringing together sciences and humanities, for an interdisciplinary competition to build tech that local libraries need.

Seven teams competed over the weekend, designing and building prototypes for projects ranging from chatbots to augmented reality to informational websites to scheduling tools. The challenging work was not just divided among the programmers; teams had to actually research the problems shared by the libraries and write up reports showing how the technology fit a real need.

The winning team with their project “Roomly” distinguished themselves by acting upon a need shared by many local libraries and a pain acutely felt

See **Hackathon**, Page 4

### **New system** (Cont’d from page 1)

CSUB library dean. “This means new duties will be assigned and some old duties will disappear. It is a time of transition.”

The project is going to change the idea of “library collection.” While each library will still maintain a collection, all physical resources in all CSU libraries will be easily available to every student. In other words, CSUB students can access the holdings at campuses like San Jose State or San Diego and have them shipped to their campus. This differs from current Interlibrary Loan in that the mediation by Interlibrary Loan staff will no longer be needed for intersystem lending. The library catalog will contain the record for every book in the system, rather than just those at CSUB. One way of looking at the change is that, from a student perspective, the entire CSU will now be one big collection of materials to choose from.

The system will allow for efficiencies in resource selection.

Librarians will work to avoid excessive duplication of materials from one library to the next.

Another advantage of the system is the simplified search interface, which will search across databases and retrieve articles, eBooks, book titles and other resources in a single search. Users will be able to control the recall and precision of their searches in new ways.

For employees, the system will change the way items are billed and the ways in which materials are coded and organized in the system. In the shared system, all the data will reside in the cloud, which means that local servers will not need to be managed and storage capabilities will be boosted exponentially. Ex Libris, the parent company of the system, has provided the library system at CSUB since 2003, so there is some continuity in the transition.



## Tales from the Vault #8

By Chris Livingston, Archivist



**Chris Livingston**

In the last edition of Tales we left off with the question of who was the first person to legally naturalize to Kern County. A check of the U.S. Naturalization records located in the Historical Research Center Archives shows that it was Michael Sandrigan who naturalized on July 28, 1866. He emigrated from the British Isles. At this time there is no further available information about him. Stay tuned for updates.

Some of the most interesting tales in the archives come from the accessioning of new materials. Just a few weeks ago, I received a call from the campus accounting office regarding some documents belonging to the Stiern Library that were being stored in the safe since November. As I walked over to retrieve the items, my initial thoughts were that the documents were probably related to the history of CSUB. To my surprise, I was wrong.

It wasn't until I was back in the HRC that I discovered what a treasure the items truly are. The first was a last will and testament written in German, possibly during the 18th Century. Accompanying the will was its English translation written circa 1860s. The next item was a leather document folder that contained five denominations of Confederate States of America currency. It was the last item that shook me to my core! Neatly folded was a document commissioning Francis H. Ruger as an Assistant Quartermaster in the Union Army signed by Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War, AND President Abraham Lincoln.

Many have asked what the next step will be with these documents. They will all need to be authenticated. For the officer's commission this will mean having the signatures verified by an expert in the field. Some have asked, "What if it's fake; what will you do with it?" While it would be disappointing if any or all of the documents were forgeries, if that turns out to be true, then we will utilize them in our archival literacy program to demonstrate some of the pitfalls archivists sometimes encounter. However, through our research thus far we are confident that these documents are authentic and will make a marvelous addition to our collection.

Do you want to learn more about Peter Gardett, Kern County's first pioneers, and those who experienced the Civil War? Their stories and others are available in the Historical Research Center. Come visit us! You never know what you'll discover!

## Chicano activist and filmmaker offers advice to students at Walter Presents event



**Civil rights icon Dolores Huerta encourages students to register to vote during a Walter Presents event featuring filmmaker and activist Moctezuma Esparza.**

In October, famed Chicano activist, film producer, and entrepreneur Moctezuma Esparza described his successes and challenges to students at a Walter Presents event in the Dezember Reading Room.

Esparza has been working to improve the lives of the Latino community for decades. He first gained national acclaim in the East Los Angeles Walkouts of 1968, where he was arrested and branded one of the "East LA 13." The Walkout of 1968, led by Sal Castro, was one of the largest Mexican American civil rights and

education reform movements in history. He later also worked as an organizer with the United Farmworkers.

Esparza talked about his years of political activism and his work in film, pointing out the decline in leading roles for Latino actors in recent years. Esparza is an Academy Award nominated producer and director whose movies include *Selena* (starring Jennifer Lopez), *The Milagro Beanfield War* (directed by Robert Redford), and *Walkout* (directed by Edward James Olmos). Esparza is also the owner of the Maya Cinemas chain.

### **Hackathon** (Cont'd from page 3)

by students - scheduling rooms. They developed a prototype that could schedule in real time. The team included four CSUB students and one BC student.

The team won over \$200 in cash prizes, a wooden laser cut trophy, and a one week membership to the MESH Cowork space.

Artwork, an augmented reality app, won second place. When pointing your mobile device at an art installation, the app could read the image, determine what piece of art it was, and give the user information about it. This app could help libraries showcase their art collections in a kind of virtual tour. It could also be used for museums.

Library Chatbot, a virtual robot that can answer basic questions about library rooms and books, came in third. This "chatbot" could help relieve the long lines at the help desks as well as help library users get information quickly and easily. This team actually spent time to ask library users what their most common questions and needs were and polled library staff. They used

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## The Brief

### **Local, regional historians present at PHI conference**

A conference focusing on local history, sponsored by the CSUB Public History Institute and cosponsored by Stiern Library, drew regional scholars on Saturday, October 15. Tied to the 150th anniversary of the county, the event was entitled "Kern County at 150 - Exploring our Region's Past." Kern County was founded April 2, 1866. The presentations ranged widely, exploring everything from the history of the Isabella Dam project to women in the farmworker movement to punk music in 1980s Bakersfield. Dr. Miriam Vivian, who heads the PHI, brought a team of library, history department, and student volunteers together to make the conference a success.

The keynote address in the library's Dezember Reading Room was entitled, "Intersections: A History of Water, Agriculture, and Wildlife in the San Joaquin Valley." The event ended with a luncheon at the historic Woolgrowers Basque restaurant and a walking tour of downtown.

### **Basque Club raises money for the Basque oral history project**

The Iguanas, a Cajun-styled band from Louisiana, played at Temblor Brewery in August to raise money for the Basque Oral History project that the library is part of. The Basque Club of Bakersfield raised about \$5,000 to pay CSUB students to transcribe oral histories.

### **Students discuss global water issues at honors panel**

Helen Hawk Honors student panelists who attended a Water Policy Summer School at a university in The Hague, Netherlands, discussed the global water

crisis and their experiences working toward solutions at a Walter Presents event on October 13. Each student was part of a research group that explored a specific water problem in some part of the world and came up with a way to solve it. Panelists were geology majors Grant Obenshain, Darby Scanlon, and Morgan Kayser. The Helen Hawk Honors director is Jacquelyn Kegley.

### **Speaker survived death, claims to have glimpsed afterlife**

Writer Peter Panagore was overcome by hypothermia, clinically died in 1980 while ice climbing in Alberta, Canada, and was revived. In those moments of death, he had an intense spiritual experience, perceiving what he believed to be an afterlife. Panagore said that for decades he kept this information quiet. He feared revealing the experience but when he finally "came out" he began to come in contact with many others who had a similar experience. He spoke to a full house in the Dezember Reading Room at a Walter Presents event in October. His spiritual journey was described in his book *Heaven is Beautiful*.

### **Library expands social media presence**

The library expanded its social media presence this September with the addition of a Twitter account. The expansion has been led by Outreach librarian Terezita Overduin. In addition to our Facebook account, the new Twitter account can be found at @WWStiernLibrary. The page was launched with a Live Tweet session of "Walter Presents: The Election, Politics, and God", which is available at #WalterPolitics. Resources and highlights from this well-attended panel are available there.

In addition to this resource, the library has created a new website with resources and information on events in the Walter Presents series. This site, available at: [csub.libguides.com/WalterPresents](http://csub.libguides.com/WalterPresents), has resources for more information on various topics presented during the Walter Presents events, including books, articles, and other websites. This new resource encourages further engagement with these topics and is a way to learn more about new ideas.

### **New election exhibit launched**

An exhibit in the Historical Research Center on presidential politics has drawn large numbers of students during fall semester. The exhibit used many of the artifacts that it received from the estate of the late Dr. Charles McCall, a CSUB political scientist and former member of the Ford Administration.

The exhibit was built by students who are part of the HRC's exhibit team, led by curator Chris Livingston. "The construction of museum-quality exhibits, and their interpretation and planning, are part of the library's learning initiative, where students gain hands-on skills and experience in the practice of applied history," Livingston said.

### **Water tops student reading agenda**

Author Charles Fishman met with Stiern Associates and invited faculty at an afternoon reception with the noted environmental writer. Fishman is the author of *The Big Thirst*. The book was part of the First Year Experience reading agenda. Each year, Stiern Associates and other guests are invited to a private event in the library, where they get an opportunity to meet the author.

### **Hackathon (Cont'd from page 4)**

this information to direct their project development and inclusion of features.

The students gained valuable experience over the weekend through work on their projects.

They also had the opportunity to attend various workshops on computer science and programming topics and digital humanities, as well as take tours of the CSUB Fab Lab and CSUB Library.

A special guest speaker, Balint Szoke, traveled from Silicon Valley to Bakersfield just to attend the hackathon and speak to students. An expert in military history, Balint spoke to students on the uses of technology to the study of war and combat decisions.

Mayor-elect Karen Goh also attended the hackathon for the Saturday night networking event and Sunday's closing night. She spoke to students during the judging period on building technology to help our local community.

More events like this are planned for 2017. KIT is working with members of the local gaming industry on the "Bakersfield Game Jam" for February 2017, where competitors would design and build virtual or physical games. KIT is also working with Bakersfield College to host a public health-themed hackathon "Public Health Renegades" in March/April 2017.

For more information about this event or future events, please email us at [contact@followthefox.org](mailto:contact@followthefox.org).



# CSU Bakersfield

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