

The Walter W. Stiern Library Newsletter

California State University, Bakersfield / Issue 27 / Winter 2005

Cerro gift largest ever to CSUB

Mrs. Dolores Freeman Cerro bequeathed a portion of her estate to California State University, Bakersfield that will result in a gift to the Stiern Library Associates estimated to be more than \$2 million—the largest gift ever to CSUB or its Foundation. Mrs. Cerro, who passed away in May 2004, left more than \$21 million to local organizations.

By Rod Hersberger

Director of Libraries

"Mrs. Cerro's generous gift will have a profound impact on the library and will benefit every student at CSUB."

**Horace Mitchell
CSUB President**



Dolores Freeman Cerro generously bequeathed a gift estimated to exceed \$2 million for Stiern Library Associates.

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A Journey Shared: Photographs by Horace Bristol



Horace Bristol, born 1908, from The Grapes of Wrath Project, National Steinbeck Center Collection. © Horace Bristol, Courtesy of the Library of Horace Bristol and National Steinbeck Center, Bakersfield, CA.

Famed photos showcased in Stiern Library

Horace Bristol traveled with Steinbeck for Grapes of Wrath research

Stiern Library is currently exhibiting a collection of photographs depicting migratory farm life in the Central Valley during the Great Depression by renowned photo-journalist Horace Bristol.

By Curt Asher

The collection, a traveling exhibit organized by the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas from a show held there in 2003, features Bristol's journey

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Although the bulk of her wealth came from ownership in California Republic Bank, which merged with First Interstate Bank and eventually Wells Fargo, she was a history major, an elementary school teacher and a lover of books.

"Mrs. Cerro's generous gift will have a profound impact on the library and will benefit every student at CSUB," CSUB President Horace Mitchell said.

"Mrs. Cerro's gift will enrich the learning opportunities for CSUB students far into the future."

***Rod Hersberger,
Director of Libraries***

Director of Libraries Rod Hersberger indicated that Mrs. Cerro was a long time member of the Stiern Library Associates, but that he was overwhelmed by the size of her bequest. Hersberger said, "You patiently nurture groups like the Stiern Library Associates for years in the hope that someone with Mrs. Cerro's generosity believes in your efforts." The entire Cerro gift will be added to the Stiern Library Associates endowment, the income from which will be used to purchase books for the Library long into the future. The endowment's income will be used to enrich the

Library's book collection in traditional liberal arts areas like language and literature, philosophy, religion, history and other academic disciplines that rely on book literature for teaching and learning.

"Our goal at CSUB is excellence. That can only be achieved when strong, enduring relationships between the campus and the community exist. With a gift like that from Mrs. Cerro, we build those bonds," Mitchell said.

"As CSUB matures, endowments for library collections and other parts of the academic enterprise are increasingly important," Hersberger said. Income from an endowment will allow the Library to develop excellence in its collections far beyond what State funding supports.

"Mrs. Cerro's gift will enrich the learning opportunities for CSUB students far into the future," Hersberger said.

Format for journals changing

As we have reported in the past, the trend for academic and scholarly journals is for them to be published in electronic format. The preferred format that is emerging is called "portable document format" or pdf. Pdf offers the truest image of the printed page of the electronic formats. Readers are generally comfortable with pdf because it looks so familiar.

By Rod Hersberger

Director of Libraries

they offer full-text as well, hopefully in the pdf format. Students and faculty now have access to about 20,000 journal titles in electronic and print formats. All the electronic material is available throughout the campus network and remotely for students and faculty using their CSUB ID. The public can freely access electronic materials in the Stiern Library. However, licensing agreements with the various vendors do not allow the public any remote access to electronic databases.

To be cost effective and efficient, the Library is focusing on journals in the portable document format as the one of choice. By that we mean, we are eliminating duplicate paper and electronic formats.

Horace Bristol exhibit (continued from page 1)

with John Steinbeck in 1937-1938, documenting the conditions of migrant farm workers for a photographic book. The photographic book project was later abandoned by Stienbeck. Instead, Steinbeck used the experience as a basis for his Pulitzer-Prize winning novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

The photos present subjects named for the central characters in the novel, a classic of American literature that shocked the sensibilities of the nation with its graphic depiction of migrant life. The photographs also served as references for the 1939 movie adaptation of the novel.

Bristol was a staff photographer for LIFE Magazine, serving as a foreign correspondent in Asia for most of his career. He died in Ojai, California in 1997



Student Mirey Rizo views the photos by Horace Bristol on display through February 28.



***The photographs
will be on display
on the first floor
of Stiern Library
until February 28***



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For more information
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the Director of Libraries
at **664-3042**.

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