

The Walter W. Stiern Library Newsletter

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Library and Information Science Fair draws over 100 attendees

The first Professions in Library and Information Science Fair held at the Stiern Library on April 23rd drew more than a hundred people from Kern County and Southern California. Attendees had a chance to meet with librarians working in a wide range of settings and to talk with graduate school representatives from California's library and information science programs.

"I was extremely pleased by the success of this event. Johanna Alexander and Curt Asher should be commended for their work developing and organizing it. Johanna, in particular, showed real leadership by bringing such a wide range of library professionals from around the state to CSUB," said Library Director Rod Hersberger.

Librarians participating in the fair included a medical librarian from Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno, an academic librarian from CSU Long Beach, representatives from Kern County Public Schools, the head of the Kern County Law Library, a library services vendor and librarians

from the Kern County Library System, Bakersfield College and CSUB. Also attending were representatives from California's two ALA-accredited library science programs at UCLA and San Jose State University, and from the school librarian credentialing program at Fresno Pacific.

The librarian participants talked with attendees about the work they do. The event was a rare opportunity to promote the profession in Kern County. Many participants reported that they were gratified to have an opportunity to discuss librarianship with interested members of the public.

"Librarianship is consistently positive work. You devote your day to helping people. That's very rewarding," said Assistant Librarian Curt Asher.

The apparent hunger for information about librarianship comes at a time when the professional workforce is

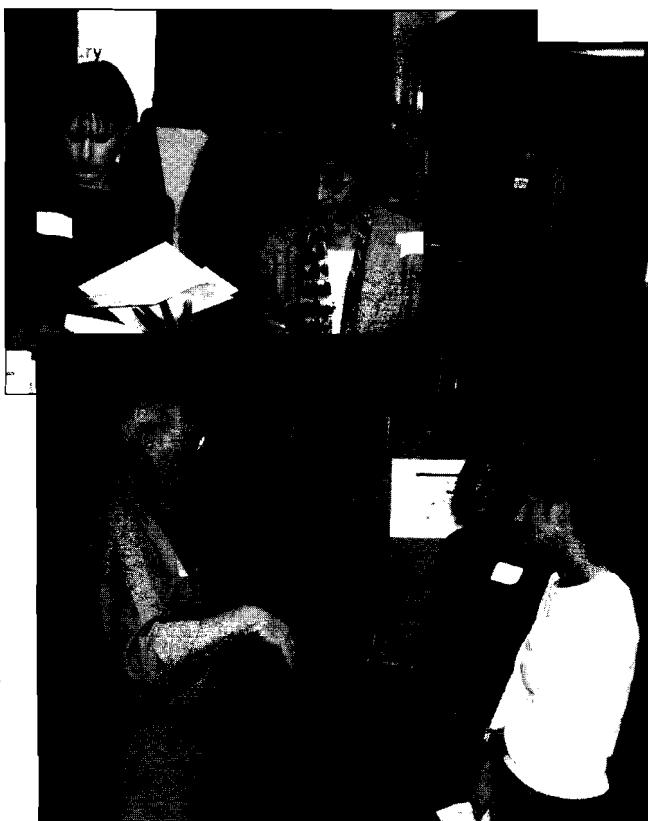
growing older and technology is growing more sophisticated. More than half of practicing librarians will turn 65 during the next fifteen years. Many of them have watched the digital revolution unfold during the course of their careers and helped establish standards for incorporating technological change into their libraries. New ideas and fresh perspectives are always being sought in the profession and the aim of the event was to inspire interest in a new generation of library leaders.

photos courtesy of Ernie Hashim

About sixty percent of the attendees were CSUB students contemplating their futures. Others were community members looking for new careers.

"Several people disclosed that they'd always had a secret desire to be a librarian," said Librarian Johanna Alexander.

One of the purposes of the event was to show that the library profession defies stereotypes and offers a broad range of opportunities. The ever-changing technological



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Library and Information Science Fair (continued from page 1)

nature of information access makes librarianship a dynamic profession, requiring continual re-education and adjustment. And within the profession, there are specializations that require mastery of special bodies of knowledge. For example, the work of a medical librarian in a hospital who provides research services for physicians is different from the college librarian who teaches students about accessing the library's databases and bibliographic collections. Conservators who preserve and restore historical printed materials work in a much different environment than systems librarians who maintain public access to electronic databases, although both are librarians.

The profession offers people a wide variety of opportunities—from science and technology to art and literature and from designing information systems to authoring bibliographies—but librarianship is often overlooked as a career, particularly by ethnic minorities. By promoting the event and bringing a diverse group of professionals together at CSUB, organizers hoped many who may have never thought about the library or information field as a career would take the time to explore the many options available to those with a master's degree in library or information science.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on library and information science careers, educational opportunities, scholarships, and internship programs visit the following Web sites:

American Library Association

Information on Education and Careers

http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Education_and_Careers

ALA Accredited Graduate Programs

http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Education_and_Careers/Accredited_Programs/Accredited_Programs.htm

To request a free information packet, please contact Johanna Alexander at 661-664-3256.

Wireless Access at the Stiern Library

In August 2001, Library systems staff installed antennas for a wireless network on the second, third and fourth floors, in the 24 hour reading room and in Media Services. The antennas are located in the middle of each floor, so the signal is stronger there at 11mbps. The farther away one gets from the antenna, the slower the connection is, about 4mbps.

If a student's computer does not have a wireless card, he/she can borrow one from Circulation. The student help desk in the main computer lab will then configure the student's computer to access the wireless network.

This service has been slow to catch on, since many students do not have portable computers. However, demand for wireless access has increased lately and we expect eventually it will be a preferred mode of access for many students.

FAIR FACTS...

- There were 118 registered attendees and participants.
- Sixty-three of the attendees were CSUB students.
- From among the students, fourteen majors were represented, including anthropology, biology, business/finance, computer science, education, English, history, liberal studies, linguistics, management of information systems, mathematics, philosophy/religious studies, political science, and public administration.
- In addition to CSUB students, one-third of the attendees included people from Bakersfield College, local libraries and schools, and citizens from Bakersfield and the surrounding communities.
- Libraries or librarian careers represented included academic, archives & special collections, systems, technical processing, Web management, database/vendor representative, law, medical, public, and schools.
- Graduate program advisors from UCLA, San Jose State, and Fresno Pacific University were present.

Retirement Time

by Rod Hersberger

Our colleague and Stiern Library Newsletter editor Barbara Mitchell is retiring in June after nearly 23 years with CSUB. For some reason, Barb and her husband Steve, a CSUB Geology professor, have decided Cape Cod is a better place to retire than Bakersfield!

Barb began working at CSUB in November 1980 as the secretary for the California Odyssey Project which gathered narrative and oral histories from people who settled in this area during the 1930s Dust Bowl migration to California. Barb then moved to the Library in 1983 putting in a short stint in Technical Services before becoming my secretary until 1987.

When the Library began using paraprofessional staff to support the librarians at the reference desk, Barb moved into one of these Information Assistant positions. She has excelled in that role and made countless other contributions to the Stiern Library's programs and services.

The entire staff joins me in wishing Barb and Steve a happy and healthy retirement on Cape Cod.

In Memorium

by Rod Hersberger

Our colleague and friend Pat Robles died on March 28th of heart failure following by-pass surgery. She would have been 50 on June 1st.

Pat began working in the CSUB Library in 1979 as a Clerical Assistant. She held positions in cataloging, serials and government publications moving up in rank to Library Assistant II. In 1992, Pat completed a Master of Library Science degree from UCLA and we were able to hire her as an Assistant Librarian. In 1998, she was promoted to Senior Assistant Librarian.

Among the highlights of her career, Pat coordinated the move from the old library to the Stiern Library in 1993 which was a major undertaking. She also helped me found the Stiern Library Associates and continued working with that group throughout her life. Pat also founded the Library's Multicultural Collection which we recently named after her.

Pat excelled in all aspects of librarianship, but reference was her favorite because she so much enjoyed working with the students. We all miss her bright spirit and constant good cheer.

Pat is survived by her husband Rick and their son Matt who is a student at UC Santa Cruz.

The following people made generous contributions to the Stiern Library Associates so we could purchase a great number of books in Pat's memory:

Johanna and Tim Alexander
Vicki Archerda
Curt Asher
Grace Wai-Sze Chang
Criminal Justice Faculty
Diana and Tony Dominguez
Mark Dowdle
Virginia Folsom
Marie Garcia
Christy Gavin
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If you do **not** want your name, honoree's name, and/or number of books contributed made public in either print or electronic Stiern Library publications, please check this space.

Please make checks payable to CSUB Foundation.
Send checks and this form to:

Stiern Library Associates
California State University, Bakersfield
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, California 93311

Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. Associate Level membership in the Stiern Library Associates provides recognition in the Stiern Library Newsletter and various library publications (both print and electronic), two bookplates as mentioned, and one free Community Access Card for the named card holder. Named card holder must be 18 years of age or older. Community Access Card is valid for one year and has same restrictions.

Walter W. Stiern Library Associates

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Pat Robles
Theo and Marko B. Zaninovich, Sustaining

Stiern Library Associates Recognize Service to Library

The Stiern Library Associates will purchase
books to honor staff for their continued and
committed service to the Stiern Library and
its programs. In 2003, the Stiern Library
Associates recognizes years of service for the
following Library staff:

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Curt Asher | 5 years |
| Bonnie Dixon | 20 years |
| David Kosakowski | 25 years |
| Vickie Melton | 25 years |
| Barbara Mitchell | 20 years |

2003 Staff Memorials

Annie Richardson Olsen

For more information
about the Stiern Library
Associates, please call
the Director of Libraries
at **664-3042**.

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