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For more information
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The Walter W. Stiern Library
Newsletter

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Valley Fever discussion inaugurates lecture series



Dr. Jorge Talamantes delivered a lecture that launched the library's Faculty Lecture Series.

Physics professor questions
weather, disease link

The Library inaugurated its Faculty Research Series on April 26 with a public lecture by physics profes-
sor Jorge Talamantes.

The Faculty Research Series is a public showcase of the research accomplished by the professors at CSUB. Each a quarter professors will discuss a subject they are investigating.

“Professors at CSUB are always working on interest-
ing projects,” said Curt Asher, the librarian who organized the series. “We know there’s a strong interest in their ideas and we want to open their research to the whole campus and community.”

In the inaugural lecture, Dr. Talamantes discussed his research on the effect of weather patterns on the rates of Valley Fever infection in Kern County.

The talk drew about forty people from the campus and community, including Dr. Tom Larwood, one of the

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Director’s Plan: Make library a cultural center

While the library is the intellectual center of uni-
versity life, it also serves as a cultural and social
meeting place for the campus community. It is a
role that is expected to expand.

“We are furthering Stiern Library’s role as a cultural cen-
ter,” said Rod Herberger, Director of Libraries at CSUB. “We are planning more public displays and more public gatherings that focus on the academic interests of the cam-
pus and community.”

The Director has been in discussions with local art col-

lectors and galleries and hopes to one day establish more
art viewing areas in the library.

Two gallery shows have been displayed in the lobby recently. Last year, the works of photographer Horace Bristol drew audiences from around the area. Bristol was a Depression area photographer who worked with John Steinbeck to document the magazine article that inspired *The Grapes of Wrath*. Bristol’s work was part of traveling exhibit owned by the Steinbeck Center in Salinas. More recently, a portion of the Jesse Heivly Collection of student

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Director’s Plan (continued from page 1)

photographic art has been on display. In earlier years, the Library hosted displays of traveling historical exhibits.

Traditionally the library has showcased some art work as permanent displays, but in the future more gallery space is expected to be provided. One idea under consideration is to display art in the Dezember Reading room.

“The reading room is a work of art itself. What better place to display art than in this beautiful room,” Mr. Hersberger said.

In addition to visual exhibits, the Dezember room is becoming a center for lectures, readings, and discussions.

“A library’s primary role is ensuring that people have free access to information. Free speech is at the center of this



Library Director Rod Hersberger

and every library’s mission. By bringing speakers into the library, we are simply carrying out our mission as defenders of open inquiry,” Mr. Hersberger said.

With the inauguration of the faculty lecture series in April (see story), Stiern Library will continue in the long tradition of libraries opening their doors to writers and thinkers.

In addition to the faculty lectures, the library hopes to invite at least one speaker or writer per year from outside the campus community provide a public talk or reading.

Finally, the library will be competing occasionally for historical exhibits from agencies that make these available.

Talamantes inaugurates lecture series (continued from page 1)

nation’s leading experts on the disease, professors from both the sciences and humanities, and interested residents from the community.

Dr. Talamantes compared weather data to Valley Fever infection rates. His aim was to test the commonly held belief that windy, hot and wet weather affects infection rates. Dr. Talamantes’ informative lecture was entitled “Valley Fever and Unusual Weather Events: Is There a Numerically Demonstrable Connection?” The professor

spoke for about forty-five minutes and then took questions for nearly half an hour. Afterwards, the audience partook of cookies and ice tea, provided by the Library.

Dr. Talamantes earned his Ph.D. in physics from the University of California, Riverside and served as chair of the Department of Geology and Physics from 2000 to 2003. The lecture was based on his article “Climate Controls on Valley Fever Incidence in Kern County, California” in the International Journal of Biometeorology.

Library Associates helps build valuable resource

The Stiern Library Associates was created to provide future enhancement to the Stiern Library and raise contributions for current Library resources. Funds are used to increase the Library’s on-site collection of books and subscriptions, and to acquire information technology and related resources. Funds are raised through memberships, as well as gifts and tax-deductible contributions from individual, business, professional, and organizational sources. Members of the Stiern Associates also receive recognition for their contributions.

Your support of the Stiern Library Associates is greatly appreciated. Please take a moment to complete the membership form on page three and return it with your gift. Your continuing support for the Stiern Library will build a valuable 21st century resource for the campus, community, and region.

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The Walter W. Stiern Library Associates

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