Fall 2018

John M. Pfau Library

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This is just one example of the many Latina baseball teams being documented. Members of the 1937 Van Nuys Texas Grocery Team are, from left to right: Lillian Ruiz, Dora Martinez, unidentified, Alice Ruiz, Virginia Ruiz, Lilliam Guardia, Ateleina Vasquez, unidentified, Beatrice Ruiz, and unidentified. The team played on a makeshift ball field at Delano Street and Cedros Avenue. The team sponsor, Texas Grocery, was a local market owned by a Japanese American family. The Ruiz sisters were descended from one of the early Mexican California families who at one time owned extensive land in Los Angeles. (Courtesy of Virginia Ruiz Durazo and Jackie Durazo Murphy.)

Robie Madrigal, Library Staff
Corinne McCurdy, Photographer

CAPPING its successful multi-year collecting initiative, “Latinos and Baseball: In the Barrios and the Big Leagues,” the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History held a special community collecting event at the John M. Pfau Library, home of the Latino Baseball History Project, on Saturday, Oct. 27.

The all-day program, themed “Latinas on the Diamond,” had two goals: to record Latinx baseball and softball stories, as well as celebrate Latinx players who, in the fight for gender equality, forged their own identities and support networks through the game.

Held in partnership with the Smithsonian Latino Center and SITES (the Smithsonian’s traveling exhibition service), the event was free and open to the public. Memorabilia that enrich the narrative of Latinx baseball/softball history was welcomed. The public was invited to bring vintage photographs, baseball/softball uniforms, gloves, bats, balls, baseball cards, programs, lineup cards, ticket stubs, autographs, newspaper stories, and more to this event for consideration by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History to add to the national collections and possible future exhibition on Latinos and baseball.

“We are delighted to once again partner with the Smithsonian Institution in a community-collecting event at the Smithsonian & The Pfau Library: “Latinas on the Diamond”

Dean Caballero opened the festivities.

L-R: Marge Villa Cryan, Ramona Avila. In photo behind them: Carmen Lujan, Mel Salazar’s mother.

L-R: Ernestine “Ernie” Nacarro, Maria Garcia.

Enthusiastic attendees.
The origins and history of Starbucks. Onward: How Starbucks Fought for its Life Without Losing its Soul by Howard Schultz.

In 2008, eight years after stepping down as Starbucks’ CEO, Schultz returned to oversee the company’s operations during a moment in history that left no company unscathed. “Onward” tells the remarkable story of Schultz’s return and the company’s ongoing transformation.

CSUSB, where the Latinos and Baseball initiative first launched in February 2016, in great part because the Smithsonian recognized the significance of our research-focused Latino Baseball History Project – the largest repository of Mexican American baseball and softball memorabilia in the country,” said Cesár Caballero, dean of the John M. Pfau Library. “The retrievable artifacts and stories collected in collaboration with the Smithsonian have illuminated the rich landscape of Latinx baseball and softball history, helping to create a more inclusive chronic of America’s favorite past time.”

Dr. Margaret Salazar-Porzio, a curator of Latino history and culture at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, who has led the Latinos in Baseball initiative since its beginning, participated in the kick-off collecting event at CSUSB, in 2016, and has worked closely with Caballero in strengthening the partnership between the two institutions.

“The Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History relies on close partnerships with communities across the country in order to include a diversity of stories in our collections and exhibitions,” said Salazar-Porzio. “California State University, San Bernardino’s baseball history archive has been key to preserving important, untold Latinx stories locally, and we are honored to work with their fantastic team to highlight this significant history in Washington, D.C.”

The program featured panel presentations; a film by Jon Leonoudaki titled “Shutout;” The Battle American Women Wage to Play Baseball; formal donation of uniforms to the Smithsonian; photo collecting; recording of oral histories and artifacts; plus mariachi, refreshments; and more. 

A Librarian’s Legacy: Extensive Science Fiction & Fantasy Collection Donated

MICHAEL R. BURGESS was born in Japan. Because his father was a career Air Force officer, the family lived in many places, including Turkey. Michael attended Gonzaga University and completed his MLS degree at USC, graduating in 1970. He then joined the faculty at California State University, San Bernardino where he worked for 40 years. In 1976, he and his wife, Mary, founded an academic publishing house, the Borgo Press, which published 300 titles between 1976 and 1998. As a writer and editor, Burgess wrote more than 1,300 short fiction and nonfiction books, 13,000 short pieces, and edited more than 1,500 volumes for other publishers. Burgess’ early books were focused on spiritual fiction, including his first book Stella Nova: The Contemporary Science Fiction Authors, which became the second volume of his magnum opus, Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature: A Checklist, 1700-1974, with Contemporary Science Fiction Authors II (1979). A supplement, Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature 1975-1991: A Bibliography of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Fiction Books and Nonfiction Monographs, was published in 1992.

Burgess had interests in and published in other areas, including Astrochirology, Vedic Hierarchy, Genealogy and DNA Research, and Numismatics. He was best known in the publishing world under the pseudonym Robert Reginald, but he also wrote as Michael Burgess for various scholarly works, including a series of library cataloging guides and, notably, The Capeer Chronicles: A Chronological History of California State University, San Bernardino, 1960-2010, which provides the timeline of our campus.

For over a decade Burgess was in charge of Collection Development for the Pfau Library, shaping the collection to reflect our curriculum and support our researchers. He also was the fastest and most accurate cataloger that I’ve ever seen! Burgess loved our students and dedicated his life to improving access to information via the thoughtful selection of books purchased and the accuracy of the accompanying cataloging.

The Burgesses closed Borgo Press in 1998 and the business was acquired by Wildside Press. Burgess was asked to continue as editor of the imprint and in that role he negotiated agreements with authors, both new and old, helping them publish or keep their books in print. In 2003 Burgess suffered a heart attack. He continued working full time until 2005, when he entered the Faculty Early Retirement Program and moved to half time. In 2010 he retired completely from our campus, but continued his work at Wildside.

Burgess died in 2013 leaving behind a magnificent private collection, including papers, manuscripts, and over 35,000 books of genre-related fiction and non-fiction. In the course of preparing his reference works, Burgess corresponded with all the major science fiction and fantasy authors of the day. Those letters have been preserved as an even greater treasure for scholars and researchers of speculative fiction.

To honor his memory, the Burgess family has donated these items to the Pfau Library’s Special Collections department. We will be working diligently in the coming years to develop finding aids and prepare this extensive collection for use. The Michael R. Burgess Collection is a wonderful legacy for our campus.
The Latino Book and Family Festival (LBFF) Expands Its Scope

Six years ago in May, the first Latino Book and Family Festival took place at Cal State, San Bernardino. The festivals have featured author presentations and book readings as well as culturally relevant dance, music, and art. Local students have benefited from participation in the art and essay-writing contests and also from the money raised by the LBFF organizing committee to fund two small annual scholarships. Through the years, the number of attendees has grown to several thousand, and the quantity and quality of programs and vendors has improved tremendously.

Originally envisioned as a venue to promote Latino books and authors, as well as family culture and traditions, at the last meeting of the Planning Committee, the members decided to take this successful event to the next level by expanding its scope to include other affinity and cultural populations in the region. This strategic move should attract a larger and wider audience of participants and attendees.

Parents, teachers, and students in the Inland Empire can expect an improved and more inclusive Book and Family Festival. Its attendance and importance could grow exponentially. The planning committee will re-name the event to reflect its new, expanded scope. Local and regional affinity groups, as well as school districts, may send a representative to future planning meetings. For additional information, please contact the PFU Library’s Administration Office 909-537-5182.

Special Collections’ Grand Re-Opening Planned!

The PFU Library’s Special Collections is re-opening in our new space and we are planning a grand re-opening once our move-in is complete. Watch for your invitation!

The Library Center for Excellence now occupies the room that used to be the Special Collections Reading Room and study area, so the library re-arranged the book stacks to create a new student study area outside of the Faculty Center for Excellence; and the campus constructed a new home for Special Collections which included some desperately needed extra space for collections.

Dean Cesar Caballero

As torn from our pulp fiction collection, just one of the new items re-opened in Special Collections.

The move has been an adventure. In addition to carefully moving everything, compact shelving has been installed to maximize space usage and beautiful new bookcases to showcase portions of some collections have been installed in our new Reading Room. We also have had hard work devising protocols to reserve the study student area when classes come in to use Special Collections.

Predictably, everything has been more complex than expected. The biggest surprise we encountered was that the fourth floor (the floor itself) is not even. Particularly in the new Special Collections area the floor consists of interesting hills and valleys, which caused our new bookcases to lean together drunkenly. Campus Facilities is rising to new heights of creativity to correct the problems.

The Nassar Middle-East Collection will occupy this beautiful shelving. Retired Dean Jamal Nassar developed this collection over decades. Some of the materials it contains are extremely rare. We will also showcase our fledgling Voices in the Desert Crossroads collection in the Special Collections Reading Room. A “taste” of several other collections, just enough to engage and encourage researchers, will round out the shelves.

So watch for that invitation and come celebrate our new home with us.

Jill Vasalos-Lee, Librarian

Les Kong Retires

Brent Singleton, Librarian

In April 2018, the campus bid farewell to librarian Les Kong after 28 years of service in the John M. Pfau Library and 40 years in the CSU system. Kong came to CSUSB in March 1990 as the head of the Reference Department after spending 12 years at Sacramento State (1978-1990) as the Social Science and Business Administration Reference Librarian.

He was granted tenure at CSUSB in 1994 and soon after expanded his responsibilities to overseeing all of the library’s service points when appointed Head of Public Services, a position he held from 1995-2012. In 2012, taking advantage of his knowledge and enthusiasm for film, Kong transitioned into the role of media librarian and went on to create and develop the Library Multimedia Center. Throughout all of his time in the Pfau Library, he was the go-to librarian for any difficult business research questions. His knowledge of obscure sources and methods of finding business related information will be sorely missed.

One of the hallmarks of Kong’s time at CSUSB was his tireless dedication to, and participation in, professional associations. He held several top leadership positions in the major state library associations, including serving as president of the California Academic & Research Libraries Association (CARL) in 1998 and the California Library Association (CLA) in 2003. He also volunteered to serve as the American Library Association Chapter Councilor (representing CARL) from 2007-2011 as well as Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Chapters Council Delegate (representing CARL) from 2007-2015. Furthermore, he was a member of the CARL Long Range Planning Team from 1993 to 2017. In 2018, Kong received the President’s Commendation Award from KULAC/LA and the CSLA Chapter, a fitting recognition of his long and dedicated career to library association service.

In the latter years of his career, Kong began extensively working with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) as Evaluator and Assistant Team Chair and as a member of the WASC Substantive Change Committee from 2003-2010. Kong continues this work while in retirement and in October participated in his 21st accreditation team visit which took him to the United Arab Emirates. He will travel there with his wife and world travelling companion Pam Ong as well as their son Matt.

Kong remains busy in retirement. Along with his continued WASC duties, he is deeply involved with RAFFEMA on campus and the A. K. Smiley Public Library in Redlands. For the past seven years, he has been a docent at the museum and has recently joined its Advisory Board, and he is the incoming president of the Smiley Friends of the Library Board on which he has been a member since 2012.

We wish Kong a happy and fulfilling retirement as he travels the world, spends time with his family, volunteers, and passionately follows his San Francisco Giants.

New Leadership: Library Media Services & Library Instruction

Barbara Quartz, Librarian

Upon Kong’s retirement, I agreed to transition into his former role and became the new Coordinator of Library Media Services in July. I plan to continue Kong’s excellent work, supporting our students by securing funding for “smart” study rooms in the LMMC, expanding our group study room capacity; and growing the LMMC’s collection of video equipment for student use. I especially look forward to collaborating with faculty to provide relevant, thought-provoking programming in the LMMC.

A big part of my job as Coordinator of Library Media Services will be to explore new streaming media opportunities for the campus and do my best to expand access to quality educational film. The biggest challenges I face are the skyrocketing cost of institutional streaming media and the bizarre licensing agreements devised by streaming media vendors.

“Last summer, we bade farewell to librarian Les Kong, who retired after 28 years of service to the library and the campus. For the last seven years he served as the Coordinator of Library Media Services, establishing the Library Multimedia Center (LMMC), with its video equipment lending program, the iPad lending program, and the multimedia editing collaboration rooms for students, as well as building the DVD/Blu-ray collection and overseeing our vast collection of LPs and other audiovisual materials. He introduced the campus to the hoopla and Kanopy streaming media platforms, which have enjoyed great popularity among faculty and students.

You know me as the Coordinator of Library Instruction, I have spent a good part of my professional life building the library’s instruction program and working to integrate critical information literacy into CSUSB’s curriculum. I have had the great honor of working with countless faculty, planning instruction sessions, and assisting with assignment and syllabus design.”

Barbara Quartz

“The biggest challenges I face are the skyrocketing cost of institutional streaming media and the bizarre licensing agreements devised by streaming media vendors.”

Jill Vasalos-Lee, Librarian
Xiwen Zhang Retires
Robie Madrigal, Library Staff

Xiwen Zhang, who joined the CSUSB faculty in February 1996, is capping a long and achievement-filled career by participating in the Faculty Early Retirement Program, which provides a transition from full-time teaching to full-time retirement.

When Zhang, a graduate of UCLA, arrived at CSUSB 20 years ago, she was part of a new generation of librarians with special training in electronic resources and databases, which, though in their infancy at the time, were becoming integral to library services as demand for online access burgeoned. With this expertise, she played a pivotal role in establishing the John M. Pfau Library’s transition into the digital era.

From the beginning, Zhang has been committed to enriching faculty instruction and student learning. She has developed and held numerous workshops on new databases, as well as provided references services, in both English and Mandarin, to students and faculty alike. She has also worked closely with faculty across campus to integrate library resources into Blackboard, facilitating student research by making curriculum-related material easily accessible.

resulting in greater faculty and student exchange. She was a founding member of the Asian Faculty, Student, and Staff Association (AFSSA), an organization that promotes the rich history, culture, and traditions of Asian nations. Each year, AFSSA hosts a number of cultural activities, including the Chinese New Year Celebration, a widely popular campus event that always sells out. And she designed, in 1996, the first homepage for CSUSB’s University Diversity Committee.

“I am delighted to congratulate Xiwen on her retirement,” said Library Dean Cesar Caballero. “I wish her my very best as she moves into a new life phase, one that I’m sure will be productive and meaningful. Given her many signature contributions to the Pfau Library and to CSUSB, coupled with her remarkable work in mentoring students, she certainly deserves to enjoy the best of what retirement has to offer. While we will all doubtless miss her high level of service, commitment, and scholarship, we’re happy that she’ll serve as a part-time faculty member under the FERP program.”

REFERENCE Librarian Xiwen Zhang, who joined the CSUSB faculty in February 1996, is capping a long and achievement-filled career by participating in the Faculty Early Retirement Program, which provides a transition from full-time teaching to full-time retirement.

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Beyond her excellent service as a reference librarian, Zhang has been a catalyst in strengthening campus diversity, having recruited and mentored, over the past decade, more than 1000 international Chinese students, many of whom remember Zhang affectionately as “mother”...

CAROLINE SUE Caballero retired in June after 30 years of service to the Pfau Library. Caballero joined the CSUSB library family in March 1988, as a full-time temporary Clerical Assistant. After a few months, she accepted a full-time position as a Clerical Assistant in the library’s Technical Services department, in what was then called “end processing.” She attended San Bernardino Valley Community College and received a certificate in the Library Science Program.

Since 2001, she has served as a Library Services Specialist IV, Head, Electronic Resources, Serials Cataloging and Bindery. Through her 30-year career in the library, she contributed greatly to the accomplishments of her department’s goals. Most recently she assisted with preparing Pfau Library’s transition to a new Unified Library Management System for the 23 CSU campuses. We thank Sue for her many contributions and wish her a very happy retirement!

Caroline Sue Caballero Retires
Stacy Magedanz, Librarian

THIS YEAR, Bonnie Petry was nominated and elected by her peers as the Outstanding Librarian for her leadership as chair of the Library Evaluation Committee and as chair of the library faculty search committee tasked with recruiting a Vital Technologies Librarian. Here is the original nomination:

Bonnie Petry for her perseverance and leadership on the Library Evaluation Committee and as chair of the LIT librarian search committee. As far as the evaluation committee, Bonnie has not only trained new staff in library administration but has stepped in this past year when that position was vacant, running all around campus and taking on extra work to ensure that the process stays on track. On the search committee, she has enthusiastically led many rounds of meetings, interviews, editing, etc., all while remaining optimistic that we will find the right person for the job. Thank you, Bonnie for always being a positive force amongst the librarian faculty!

Congratulations! Well done!

Outstanding Librarian 2018: Bonnie Petry
Dean Cesar Caballero

Bonnie Petry
Reference Librarian
Editor & Graphic Artist
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