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Peacock – John M. Pfau Library Newsletter

John M. Pfau Library

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Spring 2022

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John M. Pfau Library

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# Peacock

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
SAN BERNARDINO  
John M. Pfau Library

News from the CSUSB Libraries



Spring 2022

## Project Spotlight: Bridges That Carried Us Over

*Eric Milenkiewicz*

IN DECEMBER 2020, faculty members from CSUSB, the University of Redlands, and UC Riverside, joined by local residents and organizations from the Inland Empire, came together to re-launch a community-based collaborative initiative aimed at documenting Black history in the region. This initiative is built upon the vision of CSUSB alumna and former California State Assemblymember, Wilmer Amina Carter, who has worked for more than a decade on documenting the presence, contributions, and history of the Inland Empire's Black community.



*Selections from the Carter collection.*



*John Coleman*

While oral histories will remain an integral part of the project moving forward, the scope for the refreshed project has been expanded to further engage the Inland Empire's Black community in an effort to more comprehensively capture the community's history. Project efforts are now focused on the identification and preservation of historical collections and resources as well as on the creation of a community-centered, participatory digital archive of primary source materials.

Through the community outreach and engagement efforts of Dr. Jennifer Tilton, Associate Professor of Race and Ethnic Studies at the University of Redlands, two noteworthy archival collections of historically important materials have already been identified.

The first collection documents the

Continued on [page 3](#).



*Wilmer Amina Carter*

Launched in 2007 and led by the Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation, the Bridges That Carried Us Over project was one of the first documentation projects in the area to capture the stories, experiences, and history of the Black community in this region.

Carter, along with a team of volunteers, met with Black pioneers and leaders from the Inland Empire who contributed significantly to its development, conducting and recording oral history interviews over several years to help diversify the historical record and highlight the rich cultural legacy of the Black community in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The Pfau Library served as an early partner on this project, providing resources and support as needed, and will take on an expanded role in the re-launched project to help support ongoing collection building efforts.

The renewed initiative, now referred to as the Bridges That Carried Us Over

"The Pfau Library served as an early partner on this project, providing resources and support as needed..."



*Selections from the Coleman collection.*

Project: Documenting Black History in the IE, is community-based and collaborative with a range of project partners and co-sponsors including local area universities, organizations, and churches.

The primary focus of the new project remains on oral histories, with work over the past year concentrated on processing and transcribing recordings from the original project as well as capturing new oral histories. Students from the University of Redland's Program in Race and Ethnic Studies completed several new oral history interviews with community members remotely via Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic, and also completed transcription work on a number of interviews with help from students in CSUSB's Department of History and UCR's Public History Program.

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## Dean Cesar Caballero to Retire

Brent Singleton

AFTER a professional career of nearly five decades in libraries, Dean Cesar Caballero has announced he will retire in July 2022. He intends on retreating to the ranks of the faculty and take advantage of the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP), so he will remain on campus for several more years.

Caballero's extensive and varied career included stints at the University of Texas at El Paso as head of the circulation department, head of archives and special collections, and associate university librarian before moving to California State University, Los Angeles and finally to CSUSB as the dean of the John M. Pfau Library in July 2007. For a complete overview of Caballero's career before CSUSB and his transition to the Pfau Library, see the Fall 2007 issue of *Peacock* (<https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/peacock/7>).

Caballero has overseen many changes in the library's organization, building, services provided, and engagement with the campus and broader community. During his tenure the organizational structure was flattened, allowing for better coordination of services and collections. Changes to the library's physical layout, furniture, and general aesthetics have made it a more open, accessible, and inviting space. He established a fully operational Special Collections and University Archives service, which added the Latino Baseball History Project, Whisler International Latino Achievements Collection, and Harer Egyptology Collection, just to name a few. Furthermore, the Library Multimedia Center, Innovation Lab, CSUSB ScholarWorks, the institutional repository, laptop lending program, and the expansion of group study rooms have all been hallmarks of his time at the Pfau Library.

Last but not least, he engaged with the campus and broader community through establishing a series of library events, including summer movies, lectures, and other programs that provided interesting information, entertainment, or tackled important issues. The library we see today is undeniably tied to Caballero's time with us.

Now, let us hear from the dean himself. We thought it would be fun to have Caballero reflect on his career, future plans, and advice to library colleagues.

### What led you to become a librarian?

I have always loved libraries. Growing up, I was an avid library user and used to check out books from my public library in El Paso, TX, on a regular basis. When



"I also loved the mission of the academic library and the fact that one can make a difference in the lives of students by serving as an academic librarian."

I started college, I was fortunate to have landed a job as a student assistant at the campus library (Texas Western College, now UTEP). Then, one day before I graduated with a degree in Business Administration, I was offered a part-time job as a library clerk. It was then that I realized that I really enjoyed library work. I also loved the mission of the academic library and the fact that one can make a difference in the lives of students by serving as an academic librarian.

After graduating in 1972, I was offered a full-time job and I took it. A few months later, I applied for a fellowship at UT Austin's School of Library and Information Science. I was awarded the fellowship, and the rest is history.

### What is your proudest achievement during your CSUSB tenure?

My proudest achievement at the Pfau Library is that we, the library team, have gone through two rounds of strategic planning and implementation, and the fact that we have completed most of our stated goals during both rounds. It resulted in the transformation of the John M. Pfau Library into a dynamic full-service academic library.

### What will you miss the most about working?

I will miss interacting with members of the library team and our users, students, faculty, as well as staff and administrators. I am also a bit of a workaholic. So, I plan to stay busy with personal and special projects.

### What is your new life going to look like in retirement?

Aside from personal and special projects, my wife and I plan to do some trav-

eling, both in the states and abroad. We plan to visit family in Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico. It should be fun. My son and his wife just had a baby girl, and we are eager to meet her in person.

I am also looking forward to spending some time with creative projects involving art and music. I will, of course, do some reading and writing on the side.

### What is your best parting advice to your library colleagues?

Please continue to be diligent with your role as "stewards" of the knowledge content for the academy. Continue to create strong collections of materials and provide services that support research and the teaching and learning functions of students and faculty. Also, continue to pursue strategic goals that move the library towards a successful future, and consider trends in library services and information technology as well as the evolving needs of all users. Lastly, I hope you enjoy the journey as much as I have.

Congratulations, Caballero, on your retirement and successful career. The library team wishes you good luck and happiness in your new endeavors. ❖

## People in the News



Librarian **Kim Wobick**, Access Services, passed away in November 2020 leaving a huge gap in our hearts as well as in the library. She was instrumental in preserving library services during the lockdown. It was her idea to quickly repurpose existing device charging lockers as pickup lockers for library materials. Her legacy continues with the installation of brand new, purpose-built pickup lockers at the PDC library as well as the Pfau Library.

Library Service Specialist **Denise Gipson-Perry** retired.

Library Service Specialist **Carol Walker** retired.

Library Service Specialist **Carrie Lowe** retired.

Librarian **Gina Schlesselman-Tarango** moved to Iowa to be closer to family.

Librarian **Barbara Quarton** has fully retired. ❖

## Bridges That Carried Us Over

Continued from page 1.

personal and professional life of Carter and her involvement in the Black community of San Bernardino. The second collection is comprised of photographs documenting events, organizations, and members of the Inland Empire's Black community for over three decades beginning in the 1990s by John Coleman, a local photographer.

Both of these historically important collections have been donated to the Pfau Library's Special Collections and University Archives department and the transfer process to the library is currently underway. Once received, library staff will begin processing these collections so that they are discoverable online and publicly available for use.

Several events to support the digital preservation of, and access to, historically important materials that individuals want to keep within their family or maintain in their community are also planned for early 2022.

Project staff from CSUSB, University of Redlands, and UC Riverside will be hosting a number of "photo digitization day" scanning events on campus at CSUSB and at other community-based venues in the area.

Community members are encouraged to bring their personal or family historical materials so that they can be scanned and preserved digitally by project staff. The community members will retain their original materials and will also receive a copy of the digital files that are created allowing them to more broadly share these items with family and friends.

Providing communities with the option to maintain possession of and steward their own cultural heritage materials is a valued component of this project that allows these historical resources to remain in the community where they were created and where they can continue to be easily accessible to its members.

CSUSB will serve as the institutional home of the community-centered, participatory digital archive that is central to the newly re-launched project. CSUSB ScholarWorks has been selected as the digital repository platform to support the storage, preservation, management, and accessibility of the community-generated digital content obtained from the scanning events as well as the completed oral history interview recordings and transcripts.

Incorporating these materials into an online platform like ScholarWorks, that is centrally administered by the Pfau Library, will ensure that this content is properly preserved and accessible for long-term public discovery, study, and exploration. Future generations will be able to interact and engage with this content in an online environment through the CSUSB ScholarWorks public interface, helping to foster increased awareness and bring greater visibility to Black history in the Inland Empire. ❖



Delivery day; the shipment arrives.

## Water Archives Augmented

Suzie Earp

THE recent donation from San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District is the most significant addition to the Water Archives in over two decades. This collection should be considered a cornerstone collection for the Water Resources Institute (WRI).

The 700 boxes of materials cover the entire history of water in the San Bernardino Valley. They include much of the library of San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD), containing information on topics such as the impact of Prop 13; the building of the Seven Oaks



The Water Resources Institute lobby.

Dam, high ground water issues in the Valley; the completion of the East Line of the California Water Project; and the proposed Lakes and Streams Project.

The donation also benefited the Salton Sea Archives located at the Palm Desert Campus with 4 boxes of materials related to the Salton Sea and general area.

Louis Fletcher (1934-2018), the longtime general manager of San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water Department (SBVMWD) had his eye on nearly every water decision and project in Southern California, and especially in the San Bernardino Valley. He saved everything in the SBVMWD library: local history, his engineering text books from CalTech, computer science, redevelopment, plan-



Louis Fletcher

ning, and every report, paper, or study done by all the water providers he could get his hands on.

The SBVMWD librarian, Melissa Zobra, had this to say about the collection: "It's so nice to hear that you've been able to look at the collection and see the value of the pieces. I have to tell you that as we were going through each report, it was hard to let go of some of them knowing all that had gone into the creation of each item and our water library as a whole. Louis was always a very visionary and forward-thinking person and I'm sure he knew the significance of the collection in the long-term history of the district and the community we serve. I am so glad you were able to take ownership of the collection and appreciate their worth – I knew you and the WRI would be the best (only) resource to permanently house these items." ❖



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## A Grand Day Out at the Salton Sea



*Along the shoreline of the Salton Sea. L to R: James Knight, Eric Milenkiewicz, Jill Vassilakos-Long, Suzie Earp, Cesar Caballero, and Juan Murillo.*

*Suzie Earp*

BRIGHT and early on December 10, 2021, the Special Collections Department from the San Bernardino campus made its way out to the Palm Desert Campus for a quick tour of the Salton Sea Archives and the new Special Collections dedicated space in the Helene A. Hixon Information Resource Center, also known as the PDC Library.

The group included: Librarian Jill Vassilakos Long, Library Service Specialist James Knight, Water Resources Institute Archivist Suzie Earp, University Archivist Eric Milenkiewicz, and Dean Cesar Caballero.

At the Palm Desert Campus, we met with Librarian Dr. Risa Lumley and Library Service Specialist Juan Murillo briefly to view the dedicated Special Collections space and then headed towards a van for a day-long tour of the Salton Sea

and its surroundings.

With Murillo as our guide, and with help from his student intern, Karen Duran, we drove through the many diverse neighborhoods that make up the Salton Sea region. We made several stops along the way, including a short walk to the shoreline of the sea, which helped us to better understand some of its history as well as the many complications related to its presence.

It was a day rich in learning about the area and some of the sights, including Bombay Beach, Salvation Mountain, and a date farm where we enjoyed date shakes under the palms at the trip's end.

Many thanks to Murillo, tour guide extraordinaire, to Dean Jake Zhu who hosted the van, and to Lumley for holding down the fort (also known as the PDC Library) while we were touring. ❖



"Many thanks to Murillo, tour guide extraordinaire, to Dean Jake Zhu who hosted the van, and to Lumley for holding down the fort..."



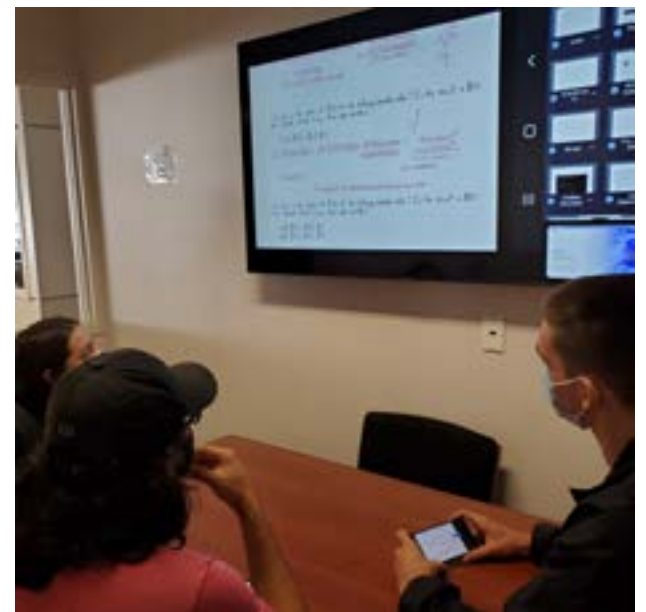
*At Salvation Mountain. L to R: James Knight, Eric Milenkiewicz, Jill Vassilakos-Long, Suzie Earp, Cesar Caballero, and Karen Duran.*



## South Entrance Remodel

TRAFFIC flow through the first floor of the library has always been somewhat problematic. Adding a Starbucks into the mix revealed that a remodel was in order. The Community Service Officers' station was shifted and new security gates now flank either side of it providing two entrances where there was only one before. The final touch was the beautiful live plants selected by Dean Caballero. ❖

## Smart Study Rooms



THANKS to a VETI grant, six of our ordinary group study rooms have been upgraded to smart study rooms. The rooms are:

PL-310	PL-5005B
PL-321	PL-5005C
PL-5005A	PL-5005L

Each smart study room is equipped with a 65-inch flat screen monitor and AirServer unit to transmit from mobile devices to the monitor.

Multiple users can mirror (or cast) their laptops, cell phones, or other mobile devices simultaneously. We recommend no more than four (4) users cast at the same time.

A remote control for the monitor can be borrowed from the Library Multimedia Center desk, located in room PL-5005.

Just click the Reserve a Study Room button on our website to reserve these rooms. ❖

