Bird’s Eye View:
A Newsletter from the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library
May 2012

National Book Award Nominee to Come to BC in the Fall

Julie Otsuka, whose novel The Buddha in the Attic was shortlisted for the National Book Award this year, is this year’s Cerro Author. This novel, her newest, describes the lives of Japanese picture brides as they encounter their new lives in America. After a memorable first line, “On the boat we were mostly virgins,” the narrator shares the doubts that all the women shared about their future husbands: “Would we like them? Would we love them? Would we recognize them from their pictures when we first saw them on the dock?” She is also the author of When the Emperor Was Divine, which chronicles the trauma of one California family's internment; the title comes from the mother’s warning to her children once they are in the camp: “And remember, never say the Emperor’s name out loud.”

Her visit is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th. She will present 3 programs, at 10:00 am, 2 pm, and 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room. We hope you will encourage your students next semester to attend one of these presentations—and better yet, we hope you require one of Otsuka’s books in your courses.

To that end, any of you have requested examination copies, but I have a few copies of When the Emperor Was Divine left. If you would like a copy, please contact Marci Lingo (mlingo@bakersfieldcollege.edu)

Books to Celebrate Tenure

In celebration of being granted tenure, recently-tenured professors may choose a book that holds special meaning for the library collection, which the library buys and places in the collection. A book plate is placed in each book noting the honored professor’s name.

John Bolton—Health and PE—Mentor Leader by Tony Dungy
Ed Borgens—Social Science—The Presidential Character by James D. Barber
Dawn Dobie—Library—Mountains beyond Mountains: Healing the World by Tracy Kidder
Manuel Fernandez—Industrial Technology—Automation, Production Systems and Computer-Integrated Manufacturing by Mikell Groover
Christian Parker—Social Science—The War against Christmas by Stephen Nissenbaum
Nancy Mai—Allied Health—Clinical Simulation: Operations Engineering and Management by Kyle, Kyle and Murray
Billie Jo Rice—Behavioral Science—Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche by Ethan Watters
Rene Trujillo—Philosophy—Mind, Self, and Society: From the Standpoint of a Social Behaviorist by George Mead

Congratulations on your accomplishments!

Beeman Strikes Again

Traditionally, the library orders books written by faculty members, but it’s a surprise when we order a book not knowing that a faculty member has contributed. Such is the case with a new reference set entitled Black America: A State-by-State Historical Encyclopedia (Greenwood/ABC/CLIO, 2011) edited by Alton Hornsby. After the library received it, we discovered that the chapter on California is written by one of our own—Randy Beeman. In the chapter, he provides a chronology as well as a narrative describing the presence and contributions of Blacks in California—as early as the 1760s. This set joins other reference works to which he has contributed as well as Randy’s book A Green and Permanent Land: Ecology and Agriculture in the Twentieth Century.
Library Research Workshops Rock!

Total number of registrations this spring: .......... 1197
Total number of students: ................................ 474
Number of professors sending students to workshops: ................................................. 48

English students are our most regular customers in the Library Research Workshops, but this semester, we saw a significant increase in the number of non-English professors who encouraged students to come. That’s great since more and more courses are requiring research-based writing, and many students either have not been assigned research in high school or have not yet taken English B50 or B1A at BC. Several science faculty have been sending students for years!

Moreover, student love the workshops! Based on 1155 evaluations, students gave the workshops a 4.62 on a 5-point scale when they were asked, “Will this information help you with research for your college classes?” That score is more than midway between Essential [5] and Quite Useful [4]. Pretty damn good!

So, if your students are all brilliant researchers who use stellar sources which they evaluate and cite correctly, then don’t recommend the workshops. But, if by chance, your students think research means cutting and pasting from Wikipedia, why not give those students some insight into college research?

Selected New Books in the General Collection (in call number order)

Psychology, Religion and Philosophy

BD331 .C565 2011

BD373 .S5 2011

BD431 .S59 2011

BF575.D35 B47 2011

BF575.E55 B37 2011

BF698.35 .C35 2012

BF723 .S5 2011

BF723 .S543 K58 2011

BL640 .G75 2011

BV4905 .B5 2011

BX8688 .M55 M64 2011
History


Anthropology, Sports, and Sociology


