Cerro Author 2012

We are thrilled to announce the Cerro Author for 2012 is Julie Otsuka. Otsuka is the author of When the Emperor Was Divine, a haunting account of one Japanese-American family’s internment. She has just been nominated for the National Book Award for her second novel, The Buddha in the Attic. It too deals with the Japanese-American experience, this time delving into the world of “picture brides,” young women who arrived in San Francisco knowing nothing of their future husbands except the photos they were sent.

Like When the Emperor Was Divine, The Buddha in the Attic is a series of linked narratives. The critic for the New York Times Book Review calls the novel “a prelude to Otsuka’s previous book,” since it deals with the period between World War I and World War II and the internment. Both novels have been described as “spare” and “minimalist,” and no critic of either book fails to mention the poetic beauty of Otsuka’s prose. We believe either one or both of these books will be relevant additions to many course reading lists since they focus on the immigrant experience in 20th century California and touch on the unjust persecution of an ethnic group.

Otsuka’s visit is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2012, and she will discuss both of her books. The library will purchase her books in the spring, so professors can consider them for adoption in fall courses. For more information, contact Marci Lingo. For further information about Otsuka, visit the Gale Literature Resource Center.

A Professional Collection via ebooks

We focus most of our book purchases on books that will be useful to our students and don’t devote much of our already-small book budget on books about teaching. But our ebooks come “bundled”; as a result, many of the titles in the ebook collection are great titles for our professional development. Here are a few titles:

Grace Van Dyke Bird Library Index
(with apologies to Harper's)

Number of "real" books in the BC Library Collection: 77,919
Year the oldest book in the general collection was published: 1794
Number of books checked out from the library last year: 35,185
Number of ebooks in the BC Library Collection: 11,007
Number of years the library has been in its "new" building: 15
Number of Cerro Authors (to date): 5
Number of hours the BC library is open weekly during the school year: 57
Total number of Library Research Workshops taught by librarians last year: 151
Total number of individual research workshop sessions attended by students last year: 2717
Total number of class orientations conducted by librarians last year: 145
Number of combined years the 3 full time classified staff members have worked in the library: 60
Percentage of published authors among the full time librarians: 60%
Total number of journals, magazines, and newspapers available 24/7 from library databases: 14,831
Total number of searches conducted in GALE Academic ASAP and EBSCOhost last year: 1,310,371
Date of the oldest periodicals in print in the library morgue (basement storage): 1887
Date of the oldest newspaper available in microform: 1 Sept 1855
Percentage of full time librarians who have participated in the BC Bowling League: 80%
Number of library directors who have won the designation "Best Female Bowler": 1

Easy Access from Home

Using Inside BC is the easiest way to access the databases from home. After you log in, click on the STUDENT tab, and the library pane is on the lower right. From there, use the pull down menu to access the databases. Because you are already logged in to Inside BC, you won’t have to enter your ID number to "authenticate" your status. Easy!

Hit the Bird’s Eye

With each issue of the Bird’s Eye View, faculty and staff will have the opportunity to win a gift card for answering a library-related question. The winner’s entry will be selected at random from all entries with the correct answer, and the prize will be from Barnes & Noble.

This issue’s question:
What system of organization does the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library use to shelve books?
Submit your answers via email to: mlingo@bakersfieldcollege.edu
by noon on November 30th. Put CONTEST in the subject line.

Official disclaimer: Employees, officers, and directors (and their immediate family members and members of the same households, whether related or not) of the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library are not eligible to participate. The Contest is subject to all federal, state and local laws and regulations and is void where prohibited by law or regulation.
Selected New Books in the General Collection (in call number order)

Psychology and Religion


History


Geography and Recreation


Sociology


Political Science


Education


Music


Literature and Media


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