



BC Archives Association Director's Report

In June, I spent two weeks at the Western Archives Institute at San Francisco State University with 30 other archivists. The institute was sponsored by the Society of California Archivists, and was very intensive course of study. The lead faculty member was Dr. Rand Jimerson of Western Washington University, the incoming President-elect of the Society of American Archivists. The institute is designed for people such as myself who are building and managing an archive with little formal training in the field. The essence of an archive, according to Dr. Jimerson, is "knowing what we have and how to find it when we need it."

In addition to reading and lectures, we were able to visit six different archives facilities in the Bay area, from the giant National Archives complex at San

Bruno, to the impressive preservation lab at UC-Berkeley. We learned about developing records management programs; acquiring, documenting, and preserving materials; developing oral history programs; and how to write effective grants.

I thank the donors and the Archives Steering Committee for the opportunity to attend this much-needed additional training. Many people at the institute were impressed at what we had done in such a short time, and I am happy to affirm we have been adhering to proper archival standards. I also learned the areas where we need to improve our operation.

Bakersfield College Responds to War

The theme of this issue of *The Renegade Register* is how Bakersfield College has responded to war. Last year on campus, many of our students interrupted their college career as they were called up for military service. We are quite proud of their patriotism and sacrifice, and the BC community will continue to respond to the needs of veterans as it has in previous wars. Currently Kirk Given, as CSUB graduate student, is using our archives to assess how World War II affected BC, and how the college responded to the needs of returning veterans. Oliver Rosales, a recent graduate of UC-Berkeley, has also been conducting some research on the tumultuous period during and after the Vietnam War and how that war changed our campus.



Associated Veteran Students - circa 1970

Volunteers and Materials Still Needed

We still are seeking volunteers to help process materials, help identify old photographs, and help with our grant-writing program. We are also still seeking any and all materials related to the history of the college. This might include photos, old class materials and syllabi, personal memoirs of BC life, news clips, and so forth. Please contact the director for opportunities to volunteer or contribute to our project.

BC Archives Website Up and Running!

Bookmark www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/bcarchive on your computer browser. Over the summer we made a complete revision of our web site, and included is an expanded pictorial history of the college, and many other new features, including some video and audio files. The director would like to thank BC and CSUB graduate, and professional web designer, Douglas Dallam, for creating the new site for a highly discounted fee. Please contact Mr. Dallam, our archives webmaster, for comments, corrections, or advice at dwdallam@hotmail.com.



News Briefs

Looking Back

By Chris Clowers, student assistant, BC Archives

1983 - Bakersfield College celebrates its 70th year of service to the community. Dr. Richard Wright becomes President of Bakersfield College. Artists Ismail Saco and Danny Marinas finished the B.C. gym mural that reflects campus life. KCCD was faced with a 1.7 million dollar budget deficit and had to cut more than 300 classes from its schedule.

1963 - Bakersfield College celebrates its 50th year of service to the community. Bakersfield College campus completes a \$600,000 Science building. The Renegades football team posted a 9-1 record while beating Glendale 48-0 in the Potato Bowl. More than 50 percent of Kern County high school students enrolled into Bakersfield College.

1943 - Bakersfield Junior College starts its 30th year of service to the community while enrollment was still down due to the men and women serving in WWII. The *Renegade Rip* added special section in the graduation supplement titled the "Honor Roll of J.C. in Services," which listed over 250 men serving overseas. Bakersfield College holds a discussion on minority problems sponsored by the Alpha Nu Sigma, the Negro Club of Bakersfield Junior College. Former Bakersfield College student Corporal Leo White became a Prisoner of War.

Serving Scholars

Researchers, professors, or students seeking research opportunities about the history of some aspect of BC are encouraged to call or come visit the archives, which will be open Monday through Thursday from 1-5 PM throughout the school year. Tours are of the archives for smaller sized classes may also be scheduled with the archives director. Please call the Bakersfield College Archives office at (661)395-4949.

Please deliver to:

Members

The individuals named below have helped make possible the opening and the ongoing operation of the BC Archives. With the state budget crisis, we can expect no assistance from the general operating budget of BC, thus the support of members is vital to the gathering and preservation of Bakersfield College history.

Donations received by August 1, 2003 will be recorded as part of this funding year. There is still time to make a donation or upgrade your donor category!

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Tribute to Dr. John J. Collins



Dr. Randal Beeman
Professor of History/Archivist

On Wednesday September 10th, 2003, Bakersfield College and the community will honor the 56-year contribution Dr. John J. Collins has made to our school by renaming the Campus Center the John J. Collins Campus Center. The ceremony honoring Dr. Collins will begin at 11:30 AM, and will be held in the courtyard of the Campus Center. All are invited.

Dr. John J. Collins has been instrumental to the history of this distinguished and innovative college—the people’s college—for so many reasons it is only appropriate we find some way to honor him. He has served the school as a counselor, administrator and coach, a professor of history and other disciplines, as the President of the Faculty Association, as the President of the College, and as the founder of the Bakersfield College Foundation in 1975, whose inspiring motto “Only the Educated Are Free,” is a phrase the epitomizes the life and character of this fine man.

As I studied his career, got to know him as one of the founding members of our archives project, interviewed him for our oral history program, and read his World War II memoirs, I could not help feeling humbled by Dr. Collins accomplishments. I felt an awe that was much like the sentiment Tom Brokaw expressed in his famous bestseller “The Greatest Generation.”

Though Dr. Collins is part of that “greatest generation,” he is far too modest to ever call himself a hero. Born into an oil-working family, graduate of Coalinga Junior College and the University of California-Berkeley, Dr. Collins found himself commanding an infantry company in some of the toughest battles in the Pacific during World War II. His war memoirs are typical of the men who fought in that struggle—not Audie Murphy tales of blind heroism—but rather stories of men in miserable conditions, who did what they had to do, far from the comforts of home. Dr. Collins accounts of Army

bureaucracy and Marine Corps lunacy also make his memoirs a fun read, in spite of their very serious nature.

After finishing school at Berkeley after the war, Theron McCuen of the Kern High School and College District hired Dr. Collins to be a Veteran’s Counselor at BC in 1947. While serving as coach, counselor, instructor, and administrator in the 1950s and early-1960s, Dr. Collins spent a year in Washington D.C. on a major fellowship, studied at Harvard, and also worked weekends and summers to earn a doctorate at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Dr. Collins had the honor of being hired as the founding President of Moorpark College in 1966, and he built that school into one of the most highly regarded community colleges in the state. Moorpark College has recognized Dr. Collins, naming a street in his honor.

Dr. Collins returned to BC as President of the college in 1972, staying in that position until his semi-retirement in 1983. Dr. Collins maintains an office and an advisory capacity at the District Office downtown, and often I when I will call with questions he is there in the morning, usually answering me with details off the top of his head.

In addition to helping found the Bakersfield College Foundation, (which serves as the parent organization for our archives), Dr. Collins steered the college through some interesting times. He helped bring diversity and curriculum change to the college in the turbulent social revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, and always praised the students for their behavior, even if things might have gotten crazy at times. He defended academic freedom, he fought to increase enrollment and participation of minority students, he led a massive expansion of programs and enrollment, oversaw the heyday of BC Athletics, and shepherded the college through the difficult budgetary times that came after Proposition 13 in 1978. He saw many triumphs under his leadership, he also saw tragedy with a student killing on campus, and some dissatisfaction, with less participation of the students in campus activities as times and priorities changed.

Dr. Collins, the educator, always remained connected to students, faculty and staff, and to the community. His life of continuing service to the school is an inspiring model of the commitment our democracy needs to survive and prosper. The Bakersfield College Archives Association congratulates Dr. Collins and his family, and we particularly thank him for his efforts on behalf of our archives, which could not have become a reality without his involvement.

Help preserve BC history by contributing to the BC Archives Association...

Bakersfield College Archives Association

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