



# The Bakersfield College *Archives Newsletter*

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*Dr. Hernandez, Dr. Christian, and Jerry Ludeke at the Sterling Silver Dinner*

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## *Dr. Sonya Christian* **Bakersfield College's New President** by Janet Tarjan

Welcome to Dr. Sonya Christian, the new President of Bakersfield College! Like BC leaders in prior generations, Sonya is a strong person with vision, talent, energy, and commitment. She has a brilliant mind, is charismatic, caring, kind, and possesses strong people skills. The youngest of four children, Sonya grew up in Kerala, India. As a child, Sonya remembers traveling to poor communities in India and watching her Rotarian father provide dental care to those who needed it most. As adults, Sonya and two of her siblings and their families settled in the US. In California and Oregon, Sonya has used her professional positions and Rotary as vehicles to improve lives of others and help provide education to people in the communities who need it most.

When she graduated from college in India, Sonya Christian was a "Topper." This means that among 400 universities the size of UCLA, she was the top graduate not only in her field of mathematics, but in all fields of study. Her career and educational options were unlimited. She chose to pursue a master's degree in mathematics at USC.

While attending USC, she taught mathematics both at USC and in nearby community colleges. Sonya really understands what amazing institutions community colleges are! People of all backgrounds can at any point in their lives choose to transform their lives and the lives of their family members by attending a community college! The California Community College system spoke to her heart and she realized where she would like to spend her professional life.

After graduating from USC, she filled a one year temporary position at American River College in Sacramento before accepting her first tenure track position in mathematics at BC in 1991. Her decade at BC was exciting for personal and professional reasons. She got a green card and became a citizen while at BC. She married. She raised a daughter who attended Highland HS, UC San Diego. Her daughter went on to medical school, and is now in residency in neurosurgery in Los Angeles.

Professionally, Sonya was an amazingly effective mathematics professor. She incorporated

See **SONYA CHRISTIAN**, page 2



*Dr. Sandra Serrano with Dr. Sonya Christian when her appointment was announced.*

## SONYA CHRISTIAN continued

new technologies, researched her craft, and focused on the success of her students. She taught the first live TV math class and was one of the faculty who pioneered the development of online math courses including calculus. She explored the larger issues of access and success. She pursued a doctorate from UCLA so that she could be more effective in her service to BC, KCCD, and the surrounding communities. Sonya had the energy and desire to take on administrative roles where she could have an even broader influence for good than as a professor. While at BC, she became the department chair, division chair, and dean of Science, Engineering, Allied Health, and Mathematics. She formed and led teams securing and implementing grants and supported activities including building up mathematics and science offerings in the Delano area, strengthening pathways to teaching, improving communication between BC and local area high schools and CSUB, increasing student tutoring, and expanding and updating the BC planetarium.

She left Bakersfield in December 2002 to follow her husband to Oregon for his new job as a university professor. During her ten years in Oregon, Sonya served as associate vice president of instruction, vice president of academic and student affairs, and Executive Vice President at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon. Throughout her decade in Oregon, Sonya had an impact on the local, statewide, and national levels providing leadership in accreditation, technology, and student success. See <http://www2.lanecollege.edu/asa/vp> for more.

Happy in her position at Lane CC, Sonya wasn't looking for a new job when she learned that the BC presidency was open. Sonya loves Bakersfield, Bakersfield College, and the surrounding communities. The timing was right for her to return to Southern California and her beloved Bakersfield College. She truly feels that she is coming home!

Sonya is a wonderful choice to be the face of the college in the community and our representative in interactions with

Sacramento and other segments of higher education. She understands BC, the community, and the statewide system of community colleges. The product of Indian, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, and British ancestry, Sonya both embraces and embodies diversity. Sonya has warmth, generosity of spirit, goodness, and broad background in higher education. She understands students, student access, and student success. She understands community colleges and their complex but crucial mission. During the fall, she helped with Proposition 30 efforts and invited all faculty, staff, and students to help as a transition team during difficult budget times. As the 10th president of Bakersfield College, she has arrived just in time to plan for the BC 100th year celebrations and to join the team of college personnel leading BC into the next century.

Sonya Christian is the newest leader to join our team in the important work of the college to provide access, success, and excellence in education to the communities we serve. She recognizes that the work to be done is big enough and important enough that every member of the communities served is invited to get involved! It is up to us to partner with her in moving BC forward. Read her blog at the BC website <http://bcpresident.wordpress.com/>. Post comments. Join advisory committees. Help in fundraising efforts. Help K-12 students prepare for college and the workplace. Mentor BC students. Hire BC students and graduates. Support athletic events. Support the fine and performing arts. Support scholarships and internships. Donate time, money, and ideas. Donate pictures, mementos, and memories to the BC Archives. Participate in Levan Center activities. Join and support the Alumni Association. Volunteer! Get involved! As BC completes one century of excellence and enters the next, all are needed. ☺

Welcome, Dr. Sonya Christian, President of Bakersfield College!



Adele Schafer in uniform



Adele Schafer sitting on 4 pillows with 4 at her back so she could reach the plane's controls.



WASP Trainees

## FORMER BC STUDENT REMEMBERS GERMAN TEACHER ADELE SCHAFER

Regarding your request for information about Ms. Adelaide Schafer, I have no dates except those of my student years ('61-'63), the year that she completed pilot training ('44), and a number of dates in the Bakersfield City Directory that you can find if you have access to Ancestry.com.

The gist of it is that she began teaching in 1938 and appears to have taught at BHS and at least one elementary school before becoming a WASP in 1944. After her ferry service she appears as a teacher at Bakersfield College where she evidently remained for the rest of her career.

Adelaide Schafer was very informal in class and completely relaxed in any situation that I saw her in. According to Sam McCall, who taught political science and was brother to the then governor of the State of Washington (or was it Oregon?) [*Oregon is right, ed.*]. Ms. Schafer's brother was a professor of physics at U.C. Berkeley who had run afoul of the political right wing because of his objection to loyalty oaths. He was removed from his position on this account but later won reinstatement and enjoyed what McCall styled "A Roman triumph" upon returning to the campus. After hearing this, I asked Ms. Schafer if this story was true and if she also had studied physics. (I was majoring in physics at the time'). She confirmed the story but said that no, she never studied physics, since she "knew her limitations."

From this and her unassuming manner, I concluded that she was a humble person, and from other remarks I concluded

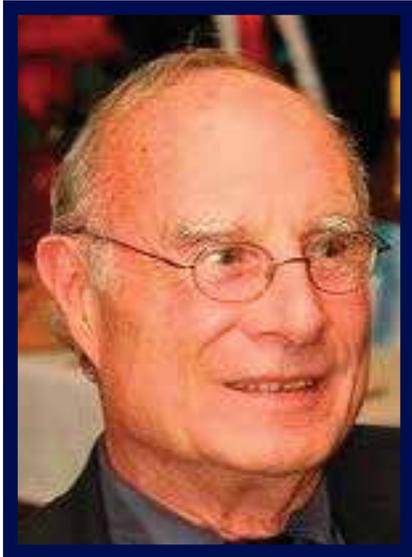
that she didn't take life too seriously but was content to use her aptitude for language to make her way through life and enjoy it as she might. She once remarked while discussing the administration of the college that Bakersfield College was "wirklich keine Universitat," but offered substantial opportunities for both faculty and students.

She laughed easily and didn't hesitate to tease students if the opportunity arose. After I graduated from U.C. Berkeley, she wrote several recommendations for me when I was job hunting. That is as much as I know about her, but I still have most of the textbooks that I used in my German classes. For our final examination after the fourth semester, we read *Die Verschwundene Miniatur* and had to read and answer questions about it in German. I sweated a lot during that exam! We also listened to excerpts from the "Three Penny Opera" and discussed it in class. Unless my aging memory is playing tricks on me, I loved the recurring reference to "*die funfzig Cannonen.*"

I wish that I could do more, but I only knew Ms. Schafer as a teacher and that for just two years. Oh, I do remember one more thing. Sometime during the first few weeks of the first semester, I began to address her as *Du*, which I was used to doing with friends. She immediately stopped me and told me that I could use *Du* to my family, my sweetheart, and to God in prayer, and she asked which category she fit into. I replied that she was just a nice teacher, and she told me that henceforth I should address her as *Sie*, which I always did. I wonder if you had to address teachers at Berkeley as *Herr Docktor Professor?* ☺

Frank Rodgers, Bakersfield College Alumnus, 1961-1963

*Excerpted from a letter to Gilbert Gia on 12/22/2010*



# CALLED

By Jack Hernandez

**This is a shorter version of “Called,” from Jack Hernandez’ book *Walking With Socrates: Reflections on Teaching in a Public Community College*. The article was read on air as part of Valley Public Radio’s 2013 Valley Writers Read series, March 6, 2013.**

Over the Tehachapi Mountains, down into the San Joaquin Valley, and along Edison Highway I came to Bakersfield and its community college. That was 1961. That was the end of one journey and the beginning of another still continuing. That was also the road the Joads in Steinbeck’s *Grapes of Wrath* took, with apprehension and exhilaration over a new beginning. As Tom Joad said as they descended into the great valley, “Jesus, are we gonna start clean! We sure ain’t bringin’ nothin’ with us.” My feelings, exactly. I had traveled a long way from home with all my young life’s belongings (some useless, horse-blanket thick wool sport coats, sweaters, and boxes of books) loaded into a station wagon I was to deliver to an LA car dealer; I had left family, friends, and an exciting college town, Ann Arbor, with its intellectual and cultural ferment and liberal politics. I had left behind the landscape of boyhood, its tangy, leaf-colored autumns; bracing, sometimes icy, sometimes soft white-flaked and snow-drifted winters; its rejuvenating, warm, rain-breezed, green-scented springs; and its lush, canopy-leafed, thunder and lightening summers.

I had left all this to come to Bakersfield.

As I drove down Edison Highway, my spirits sank some; the landscape was dry and dusty, the buildings old and somewhat run down, and the air was brown and wavy with heat. It was August. It was hot. Very hot. Welcome to summer in Bakersfield. Needing directions, I stopped and was sent to East Bakersfield. My spirits bottomed out. Some downtown, I thought. A real downtown for me was Detroit’s or Chicago’s; this was no downtown. I parked in front

of a barbershop and went in to ask the way to Bakersfield College. The friendly (a universal job trait?) barber asked my name and then asked me if I was related to Joe “the jackrabbit Hernandez,” who was a speedy wide receiver on the recent national champion Renegade football team. Sorry to disappoint him, I said no, and went on my way having learned a few things from this East Bakersfield encounter.

One salient point impressed me: Bakersfield College seemed well known in the community, which then numbered about 60,000, not, it appeared, as an institution of higher learning, rather as a perennial football power. Indeed, the first January after I began teaching, a multitude of cars and fans swarmed south on Highway 99 to the Rose Bowl to watch BC play for the national championship. The town was proud of its football team, putting 19,000 to 20,000 in the stadium (which then dominated the campus landscape) for games against JC superpowers like Santa Monica City College, which was legendary for its exciting, pass-happy football and huge marching band and flag girl entourage that put on stupefying half-time shows. Maybe, just maybe, I was related to “the jackrabbit” after all.

Was BC a football power only? Emphatically not. As I approached the campus from Haley Street, its spacious lawns, walks, and buildings reassured me that it was a real college of a kind not yet built in Michigan. That day after parking in the visitors’ lot and going through the glass doors to the administration building for the first time I encountered the then new plaque inscribed with “Only the Educated are Free”; more, I met Peg Levinson, the Dean of Instruction, one of the most articulate, sophisticated, caring people I have known. After welcoming and putting me at ease, she told me to go to the Bakersfield Inn for a good meal (steak and candlelight as it turned out); just a few minutes with her told me I had come to the right place for the beginning of my fledging teaching life, my professional journey. A place that, as it has turned out, values ideas, prizes education and the mind. Faculty colleagues I met in the days shortly after confirmed that first impression.

Did I accept the offer to teach at Bakersfield College from a clear sense of being called to do so? Was I doing a kind of pilgrim’s progress to Bakersfield? Not really. I had run out of money, was tired of graduate school, decided not to go to law school because I had no financial support, had National Defense Act loans to repay, and just plain needed to get a job. Awareness of teaching as a calling, as a continuation of my earlier journey came gradually and later.

“Called.” Socrates was called, called to be a gadfly, an inciter to truth. Socrates also saw his calling as a mission for the gods. That’s right, for the gods. Too often this aspect of his life and work is ignored, overlooked, or downplayed, perhaps as a source of embarrassment for teachers. But I don’t think that the full fervor of his mission can be understood apart from this source of his unrelenting drive. Not that he wanted to convert people to a set of specific beliefs, to make them insufferably dogmatic; on the contrary, knowing that we possess few truths with any certainty, he regarded his calling as one to convert people to doubt and the search for the

truths central to their lives. He embraced uncertainty and rejected arrogant certainty. He had a calling he could not deny, and I believe laboring in the vineyard of education is also, at its highest, a calling.

At its best, teaching is a call to help others enlarge that flame of consciousness, knowledge, and wisdom within them. Only the educated have been freed from the dark cave of ignorance, and teachers show them the way out, the way to the distant light, insofar as humans can attain it. People in other vocations are also called to serve others, but since I'm a teacher it's the only calling I can speak about with the assurance of experience. Is teaching a job? Of course it is. It has its concerns with wages and working conditions, deadlines and responsibilities, committees and paperwork. The mundane and mission are inextricably entwined. But jobs are not callings; they do not engage our highest being, nor do they succor us and raise us to the highest level of commitment. A calling makes

us travel beyond the mundane; a calling is not merely a part of our lives, a means to an end—in a profound sense it is our life; without it we are an empty husk. Of course, for some teaching is only a job; for the best, though, it is a calling. It is their life.

Almost forty years ago I came to Bakersfield College. Over these years, I have taught many courses and many students. Over these years, I have been disappointed by classes and elated by them. Over these years, I have been burdened with exams and papers, frustrated by the unmoved and unmotivated, angered by college politics and wage issues, bored by paperwork and feckless meetings. But through it all, my sense of calling has grown stronger, fed by student successes and by my many colleagues who have inspired me with their devotion to education, to their calling. ☺



### ***Clayton Rippey Comments:***

This, and the Humanities mural, came out of an experimental “team teaching” class put in place by Dalene Osterkamp and myself during my tenure as Art Department Chairman. If the college kept records of those two classes...’64 & ’65, they would have attendance records and grades given out to those who were in each class.

As I recall, the classes numbered about 25. Each student was required to produce a scale model, in color, of the project envisioned, the subject being “science” in the O’Connor model. All of the models were put on display and we had a classroom discussion and critique of the merits of each design, with Dalene and I leading the points to be made. After thorough evaluation, the students voted, along with Dalene & myself. We picked the top 5 designs. After removing the non qualifiers we then went through the whole process again, finally picking #1. With our choice agreed upon, the entire class was committed to help create the final result, with Pat, Dalene and I acting as directors.

The supplies were brought into the foyer of the first art building and laid out on the floor. The initial drawing was sketched out on the 7 panels (224 sq. ft.). Unfortunately, when this was done we were supplied with “inside” plywood, and so after several years of the extremes of Bakersfield weather (extreme heat, dryness, cold, wet, etc) Mother Nature took her usual toll of the works of man. The same happened to the humanities mural as well, and when maintenance surpassed the time and expense of repairs, the decision had to be made to take the murals down. As with all experiments, it takes time to “get it right”. Had our efforts gone beyond the 2 years we had, there might still be a “team teaching” class creating more enduring murals. It is unfortunate that they didn’t last and are lost to us, those, as well as about a dozen other acrylic murals that were on the walls in the locker room area of the second art building addition. These were all painted out in 1967 when I was on leave at Maui Community College. When I returned in 1968 no explanation was ever made so I’m unable to supply that information for the archives. ~Clayton Rippey

# GENE SHREWSBURY and the 1955 BC ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING

Phone interview by Jerry Ludeke, September 25, 2012

**PREFACE:** Artist Gene Shrewsbury rendered the 1955 Bakersfield College campus architectural plans developed by Wright, Metcalf, and Parsons. The rendering was discovered in 2012 by Michael Ledford, a former BC architecture student, in the basement of a Bakersfield antique shop. The cardboard was curled, but the paint was still in good shape. He purchased it to give to his uncle-in-law and long-time BC Ag Faculty, Bill Kelly. Bill and his wife recognized the historical significance of it and donated it to the BC Archives. The Kellys had it flattened and framed and it now hangs in the Bakersfield College president's office.

## SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION:

Gene Shrewsbury was born on April 17, 1925 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He attended the John H. Francis Polytechnic High School in Los Angeles, which was converted to a war production plant just prior to the end of WWII. Shrewsbury credits Mrs. Steinberg, a great art teacher in high school, for developing his drawing skills. Students were required to be in both an art and a music class. Although he was the president of the a cappella choir, Gene said he couldn't carry a tune, which was a great distraction to the other singers, so the choir director and art teacher made a deal that Gene's music class time would be spent in the art room doing drawings from anatomy charts and folios of the old masters. That extra practice served him well later when he entered The Art Center, a professional art and design school, with advanced skills.

For two years, Gene worked in defense and aircraft plants as a production illustrator. When the GI Bill was enacted, it enabled him to enter The Art Center art school in mid-1945. At The Art Center school, first located near Westlake Park, Los Angeles (now the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena), Shrewsbury excelled in life drawing and portraiture thanks to his high school teacher. He completed a two year course and had a job offer in the R. C. Qvale Architects' office in L.A..

Shrewsbury worked for R.C. Qvale, architect, for two years and in 1949 opened his own office in Pasadena. After working a month alone, he hired Ken Nichols, a student from Pasadena J.C., to do perspective layouts and Ken soon became a real expert. Gene enjoyed doing perspectives and developed perspective charts but preferred to paint the image of the architect's designs.

Soon after the 1952 earthquake, he went to Bakersfield for every rendering job he was called on. "I was so grateful and thankful to Bakersfield for the work provided that I'll never forget



Bill Kelly, Michael Ledford, and Al Mendez (BC Art graduate and framer at Ice House Framing).

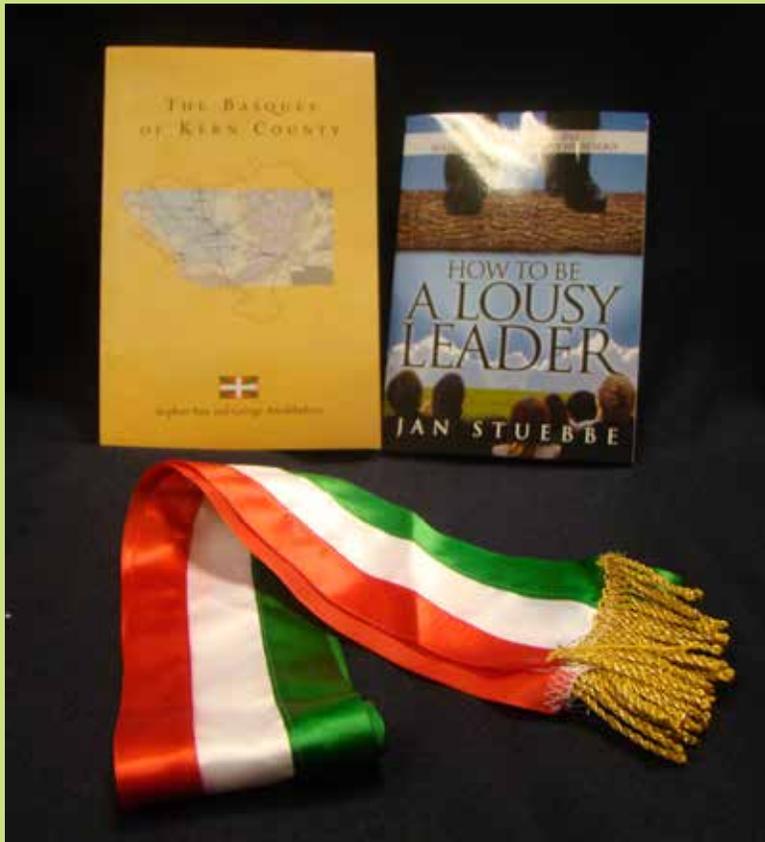
that experience! Added to that pleasure was the fact that my wife's parents lived in Bakersfield and we visited there often." He also produced renderings for other architects in California and some surrounding states.

In 1955, he made Ken Nichols, who was good at perspective, a partner, and in 1957-58, Shrewsbury left Nichols in charge and moved to Denver. "So ended my Bakersfield era which was a valuable, productive, and memorable experience." In Denver, he went to work for a Development Company of shopping malls in Colorado and Texas. After getting his architect's license in 1960, he was in-house staff architect.

When asked about the medium for his renderings, Mr. Shrewsbury said, "I used tempera (opaque watercolor) because it gives depth and a sense of solid concrete. I use ink only to outline people that appear small in scale." However, the paint was special, produced in southern California by the Pottenger family. It is no longer available. The Pottenger's paint could be used for either a transparent or opaque technique. A rendering would take three to four long days (12 to 14 hours) or, for the 30 by 40 size, a week, depending on the detail. Using all transparency paint technique is faster.

Gene commented that, after a rendering has served its initial purpose, it usually ended up in a basement between cardboards. Once when he heard that one of his renderings had been sold at an art show, he was surprised because he didn't think it was very artistic, but the buyer thought it was artistic. Gene tried to purchase an old rendering by the multi-talented Chris Choate, calling him a master whose renderings displayed very convincing use of light and shadow. Choate did work for, among others, LA architect Welton Beckett, who refused to sell Shrewsbury one of Choate's old renderings. The other rendering artist admired by Shrewsbury as a master was John Hollingsworth, who passed away recently. "He produced transparent water colors very quickly and all of it was like a jewel; you wanted to own it." 🐾

# Interesting Acquisitions



Randy Fendrick edited and produced a disc that combined movies he took of the Bakersfield College Band's 1962 trip to the Seattle World's Fair with background music of the band playing.

*Basques of Kern County*, written by alumni authors George Ansolabehere and Stephen Bass, and *How to Be a Lousy Leader*, written by retired Athletic Director Jan Stuebbe, have been added to the collection. If you are former staff/faculty/student member of Bakersfield College and have written something that was published, we would appreciate receiving a complimentary copy for our Bakersfield College Authors section of the Archives.

A red, white, and green sash worn at a Chicano/Latino Commencement ceremony was donated.

Clayton Rippey's original color rendering for the Porterville College pirate theme floor mosaic was donated by Pat and Rob Parsons. Porterville College has paid to have it framed and it will be on long term loan to Porterville. It will be featured in the next Newsletter.



Dick and Sharon Miles sitting with one of Clayton Rippey's pots.

## Rippey's Pot

My wife and I liked the article on Clayton Rippey in the current issue of the Newsletter [Fall, 2012] and we were inspired to take the photo I just sent you which shows us with one of Professor Rippey's pots.

I bought the pot as a wedding present for my wife, Sharon. We were married right after we graduated from BC in 1960. The pot has gone along with us in our many foreign assignments and never failed to draw favorable comment from our many guests and colleagues during our forty plus years of government service. We never named it. The pot was delivered to my parent's house in Bakersfield and my mother took it from the delivery fellow. When I got home, she said that it looked like a bomb stuck in the mud. It does, sort of.

## MAKING CONNECTIONS:

We have a reader request from Ed Udell, who is trying to locate contact information for Ron Traviss. Ed was president of AMS in the fall of 1961, on the Student Court and on the same cross country team with Ron. If you can provide any information, please contact the Archives by email or phone.

**NOTE:** BC Archives Newsletter regularly receives responses from readers after each issue. In this issue Clayton Rippey responded about the mosaic picture in the Fall, 2012 issue, Jane Thornton identified people in our Mystery Photo, George Russell donated a picture of himself in the Renegade chain mail, and Dick Miles described a Clayton Rippey pot he purchased. The Archives encourages all Newsletter readers to share your BC experiences by sending us your emails, letters, and donations of BC artifacts. They may appear in the newsletter and become part of the Archives Collection.



# READERS RESPOND TO BC ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

## Renegade Knight on Horseback

E.A. (Ed) Dawson, Attorney at Law  
Vancouver, WA

The 1963 Homecoming game was against El Camino. The Renegades were having a very successful season and the entire ASB organization wanted the game to be a memorable one. One of the proposals was to get a white horse and a guy dressed like a knight to ride him. It turned out that the owner of a local horse boarding company had just the right horse but no one in Bakersfield had any apparel suitable for a knight. Someone suggested we try a costume company in Hollywood. The search committee found a guy who had connections with some of the studios and he arranged for rental of some gear that Charlton Heston had worn for the movie "El Cid". There was a chain mail shirt with attached hood, chain mail pants, metal

gauntlets, and metal boots. The "chain mail" was actually a sort of burlap that was spray painted silver, but from a few feet away, it looked pretty convincing. A local tailor made a robe in school colors and someone found a helmet and a sword. The saddle didn't look too medieval, so some of the cheerleaders applied aluminum foil to make it look a little more authentic.

Ed Dawson, a BC student, was chosen to be Renny, the Renegade Knight. The real performer, though, was the horse. He really liked all the noise and excitement and put on quite a show as the noble steed carrying his knight into battle. The Renegades went on to win the game 26 to 7.

## George Russell in Knight Chain Mail

You mentioned the "Chain-Mail" shirt. As I recall Bev Torkelson (BC photographer of the day) wanted a picture prior to one of the games, showing how the tradition was being carried on. Can't recall the outfit being used regularly but on one occasion they had a knight dressed in that gear ride onto the field (white horse and all) brandishing a lance and shield and giving the impression tha BC was truly a force to be dealt with.... Also, I found it interesting looking back on the *Renegade Rip* photo that showed our service club presenting a plaque honoring BC veterans who served during WW2. Wonder if such a thing might still be around. Last of all,...that was the year the Renegade Knights came up with victory bell and trailer they presented to the school....thanks for stirring the memory bank and may your efforts be properly appreciated.

# 100 YEARS OF BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE SOUVENIR CENTENNIAL BOOK

This year, 2013, marks the 100th year of Bakersfield Junior College and Bakersfield College. The Bakersfield College Foundation has published a pictorial and text history highlighting most of the important years and significant events of those 100 years. The coffee table size book is available this spring and throughout the rest of the year.



*The*  
**BAKERSFIELD  
COLLEGE**  
*Century*  
1913-2013

Price of the book will be \$20.13 commemorating the year of its issue. **GET YOUR COPY AT THE BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE BOOKSTORE (BARNES & NOBLE, Store #8014) AND AT MANY CENTENNIAL EVENTS.** For mail orders, add \$6.95 S&H for a total of \$27.08.



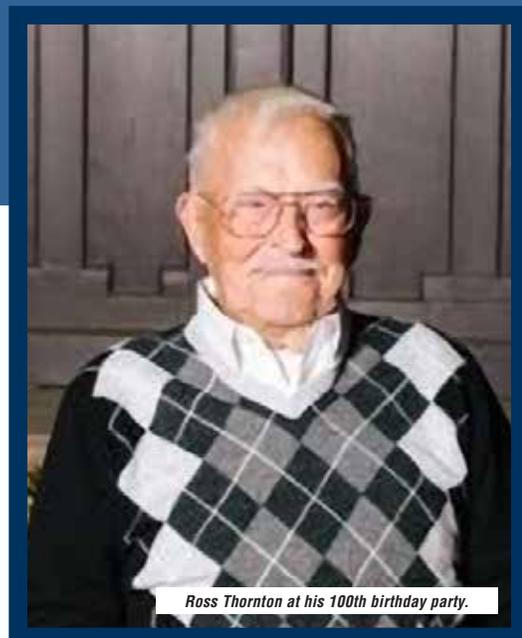
## SEEKING OLDEST BC ALUMS!

As Bakersfield College enters its 100th year, we are seeking to identify our oldest alumni. (Remember that anyone who has attended Bakersfield College is considered an alum...you don't have to be a graduate.)

We know Ross Thornton turned 100 in November 2012 and played on the Renegade football team in 1932 and 1933. Right now he is the oldest alum we know of.

Do you know of any Bakersfield College alum who is 90 years old or over? Send us names, contact information, age (date of birth is even better), and anything you can tell us about yourself or the person you are alerting us to.

Thanks for your help.



Ross Thornton at his 100th birthday party.

# EDUCATOR OR *Performing Musician*

Frankly, I made a decision in high school that a career as a band director would be my initial goal. This was later confirmed in college when I chose not to switch to become a performance major. Performance and conducting, however, continued to be part of my life outside my total commitment to Bakersfield College.

In 1970, I was in Gil Bishop's living room with Gil playing accordion ( he majored in music at San Jose State), Dr. Ken Lautenschlager, acoustic bass, and professor of Geology at BC. I was playing alto saxophone with the group.

President Simonsen was a music major at University of Pacific and an outstanding oboe performer. In retirement, he and I performed in music as we had in education. The dual interests continue as now I serve on the Archives Steering Committee and still play saxophone by volunteering on First Fridays at Guild House (with a pianist who taught mathematics at Taft College)!

Since 1959, I have performed and announced for the Bakersfield Community Band. My wife and I have sung in local church choirs, and I have conducted many musicals at Harvey Auditorium during my retirement. I played saxophone in the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus Band and played in pit bands for dancers Bobby and Sissy of Lawrence Welk fame and also for Hal Linden, TV personality.

Rewarding as the above experiences were, my positions at Bakersfield College provided a perfect setting for my growth as an educator. Surrounded by students who wanted to learn, a superior faculty, fine staff, and vital community support, I felt compelled to succeed. 🍷



Ken Fahsbender playing at Guild House, 2012



## **Newsletter Announcement:**

If you are receiving the BC Archives Newsletter by U.S. Postal Service mail and would rather receive it digitally, please send an email to [bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu) with the subject line: Please send My Archives Newsletter Digitally. If you do not want to receive the newsletter at all, please so indicate.

# The Archives Newsletter Gets a New Editor

The editorship of the Archives Newsletter changes hands with the next issue. Tracy Lovelace, who assisted with this issue, will be taking over from Don Stansbury. Don has been editor for the past six years and has done an outstanding job. We will miss him greatly but are pleased he leaves the newsletter in good hands. Tracy will continue to work with Eric Carillo, our graphic designer who does such wonderful work. Tracy would love to receive ideas for future issues. Please send an email with the subject title "Newsletter Suggestion" to [bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu), or call 661-395-4949.

Dr. Greg Goodwin, BC Archives Chair

**Designer's Note:** I've worked on the Archives Newsletter with Don for many years now. I just wanted to (secretly) slip in my kudos for a job well done as Editor. Don has, on many occasions, endured through my many battles with trying to meet the deadlines. I've seen due dates skip right by me and Don would express his understanding and patience. He has made my life as a designer easy by getting me the stories in a timely fashion and by making edits when contributing authors had just a little too much to say for the space I had to work with. After each newsletter release I receive emails of gratitude by Don for the Newsletter's design. I seldom get recognition or praise for what I do on the BC campus, but when I do, it means a great deal to me. Thank you Don.

Eric Carillo, BC Graphic Designer

## Volunteer Opportunities At The Archives

As we enter our centennial year, the Archives will be called upon to put up displays at various events. We will need volunteers who are willing to give an hour or two to simply sit with a display at an event, keep it safe, and chat with the public. If you let us know you are willing to be called on, we will send you a notice as events are scheduled to see if you are available for a particular upcoming event. PLEASE VOLUNTEER.

We need volunteers to do oral interviews. John Ackland, retired science professor, has been doing a fantastic job of interviewing old timers... staff, faculty, alums...but we could use several more interviewers. We have special recorders to use and suggested questions to ask. John finds it fascinating to hear the stories and would be happy to talk with anyone who might be interested but feels unprepared to do interviewing.

In the same vein, we need volunteers to transcribe the interviews. This can be done at home or here in the Archives with a "stop-start" machine. Jeri Haner has been doing a great job transcribing, but we could use several more volunteers to keep up with the interviews.

### WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

The Bakersfield College Archive Association is now on FACEBOOK. In BC's 99th year, we finally entered the 21st century! However the main purpose of that is to direct you to the Archive website, [www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/bcarchive](http://www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/bcarchive) to enlist your help in identifying photos in our collection. There you can identify photos as they pop up or go into the detail selection to view photos in your area of interest. Any detail you can give us is helpful. A date, for instance, may lead us to the *Faconteur* where we can find further identification. Now you will be able to "volunteer" from the comfort of your home/office. (Don't let that stop you from coming into the office and helping out; we can keep you busy here too.) Also feel free to submit any interesting tidbits or stories about BC. Send them via email to [bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu).



## Come See The Archives

The BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE ARCHIVES has photos and memorabilia on display and a wealth of fascinating old documents on BC's history. We are located on the 2nd floor of the new Grace Van Dyke Bird Library.

**Director:** Jerry Ludeke

**Archives Assistants:** Rosalee Pogue, Helen Harp

**Email:** [bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu)

**Phone:** 661-395-4949

**HOURS FOR SPRING 2013:** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday • 8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

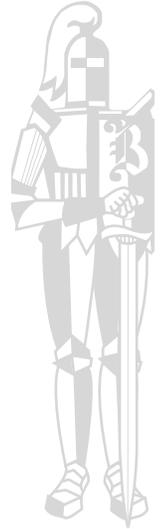
Please call before stopping by. Other hours available by appointment. CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER BEGINNING MAY 13.



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## *People We Will Miss*

**JESSE BRADFORD**, raised in Shafter and a member of John Collins' 1958 track team, became the first African-American coach at BC (track). As the 3rd African-American teacher on campus, Jesse developed the popular Black History course. He was a two-year All-American at Arizona State.

**BERTIL BRINK** passed away in Tehachapi. Bert was a long time faculty member of the Art Department.

**JOHN CHAPMAN** was a Navy veteran who ran track at BC. For the past 10 years he has been an energetic, hardworking equipment manager for the BC Athletic Department who brought a smile to everyone.

**VERNON CHAPPEL** was well known to decades of Renegade fans, first as the cheerleader in the 70s who did stunts and could get any crowd enthusiastic and cheering. Homecoming crowds looked forward to seeing him back and leading cheers for many years.

**DR. ROMAIN CLEROU** played on the 1934 and 35 Renegade football teams and served as the head team doctor from 1946 until 1979. His red beret and cigar were ever present on the field. See Clerou article in Archives Newsletter, Nov. 2008, pp. 6-7.

**KARL HAAS** was an adjunct faculty member in the Music Department for 35 years teaching beginning and intermediate guitar.

**RUBY NORD**, 86, worked in Food Services and was in the Renegade Room in its early years. Her sister Thelma also worked at BC according to Maureen Walsh-Meyer.

**DIANE SHAW**, the smiling face in the Records office window, died at the end of October.

**ED TISCHBIREK** was an Army survivor of Pearl Harbor, receiving a Purple Heart. He went on to a long career in the Agriculture Department at BC.

**Readers Please Note: Send information about former BC people to Charlotte Cox at [ccox@bak.rr.com](mailto:ccox@bak.rr.com)**