BC Archives Association Director's Report

The archival community of the United States is almost always under-funded, under-staffed, and underestimated as to the benefit of archives to a society. We in the United States, with our relatively brief history and our passion for creating paper and photographic records, have tended to discount the value of archives. Fortunately, several organizations, such as the Society of American Archivists and the Society of California Archivists, exist to instruct us on how we might best document our vital history.

We created the Bakersfield College Archives as an operation that would adhere to the high standards of the archival community. We also believe that Bakersfield College has stood at the front lines of the community college movement. In our 90 years of operation, this college has been an intellectual and cultural gem for this community, just as other community colleges have helped elevate the lives of millions of Americans over the past century. We are proud that we are being recognized nationally for creating an archive when few community colleges have an archival program, and it is because of your support that this project continues in these difficult budgetary times.

Thank you,

Dr. Randal Beeman
Professor of History/Archives Director

Renegades Baseball Continues a Winning Tradition

By Chris Clowers

The Bakersfield College Renegades baseball team has had a long tradition of producing talented, young players who have moved on to four-year schools or have played in professional baseball. Since 1956, there have been six BC baseball coaches, Garrett Arbelbide (1956-57), Gerry Collis (1958-1967), Walt Johnson (1968-1973), Pete Lango (1978-1985, 1987), John Moncier (1986, 1988-1995), and current baseball coach Tim Painton, who has been on board since 1996. All of the coaches have been a major part of building and maintaining a great tradition of BC baseball.

The BC baseball program has seen close to 200 former Renegade players move on to play professional baseball since 1956. Also, since 1993, 76 former Renegade players have moved on to four-year schools.

According to Painton, coaching at the community college level has various challenges such as fundraising and working with a roster that has numerous turnovers due to the community college being a two-year program. The community college level has various challenges such as fundraising and working with a roster that has numerous turnovers due to the community college being a two-year program. The community college has various challenges such as fundraising and working with a roster that has numerous turnovers due to the community college being a two-year program.

The Renegade baseball squad of 1951 was made up of Don Mydland, Boyd Hartle, Charles Rose, Larry Vallenbois, Don Cauble, Don Lohr, Manager Lloyd Williams, and Coach Earl Sargent (back row), and (in front) Jack Towery, Leo Hagiwara, Ronald Reese, R. C. Kaylor, Roy Wilson, John Stinshem, Max Watts, and Ron Kaven.

In recent years, the baseball team has continued with the tradition of developing great young players in Kern County. In 1997, outfielder Kyle Ursey had a BC single season hitting record of 90 hits and had a batting average of .441 in 204 at bats that year. Also, current major league pitchers Phil Dumratt and Colby Lewis posted over 100 strikeouts in a season while playing for the Renegades. Left-handed pitcher Dumratt was a first-round draft pick of the Boston Red Sox organization and was traded this past season to the Cincinnati Reds organization, in which he made the 40-man roster for the Reds, right-handed pitcher Colby Lewis won ten games this season with Texas Rangers and 2001 second round draft pick left-handed pitcher Jake Woods was just called up by Anaheim Angels in November. Also, former Renegade players Sean Barker, Octavio Martinez, Anthony Acedo, Jeremy Wodel and Craig Green are currently playing professional baseball.
The People Behind the Names

"If there is a heaven, Adele Schafer is there," according to one of her closest friends, who was blessed to influence this fascinating woman. A Canadian whose family came to California, Adele (Adele) Schafer came to BC in 1938. During the war she was one of a group of mostly young female pilots who ferried planes across the U.S. for the military. (It has been said that she was able to fly long before a BC student taught her to drive and she got a driver’s license!) During her early tenure at BC, study of the German language was still a requirement for science majors, and she enjoyed high-caliber students in that discipline. She was well trained to international students, and would frequently give financial assistance to students out of her own pocket, along with heavy doses of inspiration. One former friend said simply, “She was BC.” After her retirement, "she continued to live in her above-the-garage apartment on "A" Street (close to the old BC on the BHS campus) that she had rented for the same $40 a month for decades. In 1998, she had rented for the same $40 a month for a decade. In retirement, she continued to tutor students until her age and illness took her to a rest home on the coast where she passed away in 1998. (Schafer Hall is named in her honor.)

Theron McCuen was an Engineer from Stanford who taught Engineering at BHS and BC beginning in 1928. He became superintendent of the school with the college and high school districts in 1945 where he remained until the high school and college broke in to separate districts in 1968. McCuen continued on with the high school district after 1968.

"Mac" McCuen was instrumental in building the new campus "on the hill" that opened in 1956. He successfully lobbied the community to fund the college. Today the administration building, where most students first enter our college, is appropriately named in his honor.

Classic Horror at Bakersfield College

By Philip Kopp, Student Archivist

He was known as the “King of Terror.” With an aristocratic voice and a power of presence, Vincent Price has become a legend in the world of film bringing a darkness to the big screen that made him a household name among the great actors of his time. Knowing him as the scientist in Edward Scissorhands and the narrator in Michael Jackson’s Thriller, I was familiar with Vincent Price but did not know of his true talent until I saw such films as The Raven, The Ten Commandments, and The Abominable Dr. Phibes. This stylish actor, who seemed more Shakespearean than gothic, proved to be a master of suspense that would even haunt Wes Craven in his dreams.

Through his 125 films and such television shows as Batman and The Carol Burnett Show, Vincent Price became a household name, and in 1963 he visited BC as part of Bakersfield College’s “BC Presents,” a gathering of various talent from around the nation. On his visit, Price read a speech entitled Three American Voices, a speech he delivered on college campuses all over the United States. In this speech, he paid homage to a poet, a painter and a playwright.

“Hair, Hair, Long Beautiful Hair . . .”

by Angelina Saldana, Student Archivist

In the spring of 1993, Randall Messick’s theater class decided that, in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Broadway production Hair, they would perform the musical hit for their spring production. Hair was first performed on Broadway April 29, 1968 and ran until July 1, 1972. The play is set in the sixties and focuses on a group of hippies in Greenwich Village, NYC. Throughout its run, Hair was the subject of constant criticism because of its four-second nude scene. People involved with the play stressed that the context of the nude scene was not obscene but about freedom. They further stressed that without the nude scene, the play would be trying to make in that scene would not be as profound.

The nudity was optional for the cast of 18 at BC. The orchestra opted to not perform and a five-member rock and roll band replaced them. At least two weeks before production, the controversial nude scene was leaked to the public and caused uproar with local citizens. School officials determined that it came down to the First Amendment rights issue and allowed the play to proceed. Police were needed to separate the protesters from the attendees. Hair was the most attended play in BC’s history and sold out every night. In a recent interview regarding the 1993 production, Randall Messick commented that the play was “a rebellion against established convention.”

H20 No More

By Whitney Marsh, Student Archivist

In 1980, going to a Bakersfield College swim meet was an exciting event. The smell of the highly chlorinated pool, the energy from the swimmers and the liveliness of the crowd was in the air. None of the swim team had been in action since 1983.

Both the women’s and men’s swim teams did fairly well in the last years of the program. In the 1980 swim season, the women’s team won the metro title by beating Pierce 68 to 63. Jill Foshee earned a triple victory in the 200 Individual Medley, 1000 Freestyle, and the 1000 IM. Dar Fugitt won the 50 and 200 Breaststroke, and 500 Freestyle, providing the winning margin for the team. The last record set on the women’s team was in 1980 by Jill Foshee in the 50-yard Freestyle with a time of 25.03, and in the 50-yard Butterfly coming in at 28.70.

Both of my parents, Scott Marsh and Kathy Morrison-Haddock, as well as close family friend Wayne Aldean, were on the swim team in the late 1970’s and during the last years of the team in the 1980’s. They all had a great time on the team, and they recall enjoying the spaghetti dinners and sharing parties, among other activities they partook in back then. My parents and Wayne each mentioned that they would love to attend a swim meet at the college again someday.

Maybe someday we can have a swim team again, and bring back the fun times we once experienced by the college swimmers and the fans who rooted them on.