Please welcome the re-emergence of the Renegade Register after a brief hiatus. My primary responsibility at Bakersfield College is to teach a full slate of history courses. I am also involved in other campus commitments, as well as being active professionally with a number of organizations. I am also researching and writing my second book, plus raising a family as well.

With such a busy life I am not able to focus as much time as I would like on the archives. Federal work study students help with the archives, but we have no administrative or clerical staff. Our operating expenses come from the donations of our association members. Without these supporters the archives would cease to function as a vital entity here at BC.

The real reward of the position is the opportunity to understand the history of the college through collecting, documenting, preserving, and publicizing the heritage of this fine institution and the tremendous impact BC has made (and continues to make) on Kern County. I have met so many kind, successful, interesting and generous people in the extended BC family over the past three years. Personally, my experience as director of the college archives strongly confirms my decision to remain in Bakersfield even when I had opportunities to go elsewhere.

Since we started from scratch in 2001, I am happy to report that we have meticulously collected, preserved, and cataloged well over 100,000 pages of documents, over 8000 photographs, and numerous videos and other media that relate the 90 year history of the college. Our guide to collections and procedures manual is now nearly 100 pages in length, and our web site has been viewed by thousands of people. We have transcribed over 15 oral history interviews and have several more on file to be transcribed.

In the area of public outreach the archives has fulfilled its mission admirably. We have distributed over 10,000 copies of our newsletter, The Renegade Register. We have been the focus of a newspaper story. We have appeared on each of the three local television stations to garner publicity for our project. I appeared at BC’s Opening Day ceremony to promote the archives. I also spoke to the Academic Senate and the College Council. We also hosted an open house last fall for the archives. We have distributed our brochure and a brief survey to all of California’s 109 community colleges.

Additionally, our archive has become widely known in the archival community throughout the State of California and in the greater archives community nationwide. I have joined and presented a paper about our project to the Society of California Archivists. The current president of the Society of American Archivists has directed some of his students to survey me about our archive. Not only am I active in the archival community, I also serve on the Board of Directors of the Kern County Historical Society and the Board of Directors of the California Council for the Promotion of History. I am also a grant reviewer for the California Office of Historic Preservation. My involvement in these organizations has helped solidify my understanding of archives and the practice of public history, and hopefully made our archive more visible. Our hope is that all of this activity will add up to more support and more grant opportunities for our archive in the future.

In my time as director, we have taken in over $60,000 in financial and in-kind support from the community. We have received materials from over 70 different sources, continuing to link Bakersfield College to the community it serves. We have had research inquiries and materials donated from many cities outside of Kern County, and have discussed our collections with researchers from at least five different states. We have also served local and campus researchers on numerous occasions. We have had several BC and CSUB students doing research in our archives.

Numerous projects are either underway or in the planning stage including:

- Following a more aggressive strategy for pursuing historical materials from faculty, staff, alumni, and college supporters
- Staging a major celebration on 2006 to promote the 50th anniversary of the move to our “new” campus on the bluffs.
- Upgrading our catalog, web site, and collections database
- Offering more volunteer opportunities in the archives
- Hosting programs and activities to celebrate BC history
- Integrating and interacting within the administrative structure of the college and library
- Obtaining more clerical and administrative support for day to day operations.
- Finding funds for a new computer, printer, scanner, and audio-visual equipment for the archives facility

Thanks again, supporters, for what all of you have accomplished!

Who are these BC faces?

Answer on back...
Thanks to New Supporters

The Archives Steering Committee and the Director would like to thank the new members of the BC Archives Association for their generous support in our recent fund-raising campaign. Their names will be added to the plaques outside of the front door of the archives. (Please forgive the omission of your name if you sent a donation prior to our publication deadline. Please contact the archives at 661.395.4949 if we have not recognized your contribution.)

New Founding Members
R.S. Dixon
Dr. Kevin W. Young and Mrs. Tara Young

New Charter Members
Eugene and Linda Volland

New Sustaining Members
Donald and Diane Lake

New Contributing Members
Mrs. Betty Bishop
Billy R. Cowan
Angelo and Nancy Haddad
William S. Halsby
George and Gardner Kim
Donna Litherland
Howard and Joyce Quilling
William W. Walker
Marjorie and Robert Wickey

Testimonials – How Did BC Change Your Life?

The Renegade Register would like to publish YOUR testimonial of your time at BC and how your experience at BC influenced your life. Please send your 450-700 word testimonial to Dr. Randal Beeman, Archives Director, BC, 1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield CA, 93305. Or email Dr. Beeman at rbeeman@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Archives Correspondence

Many letters arrive at the BC Archives. Occasionally, The Renegade Register will share our correspondence. Recently, for example, Bonnie Kelley wrote from Oregon of her memories of BC. In an email she said, “I attended BC at the time Sam McCall–brother of famed Oregon Governor Tom McCall–was teaching. We had some strong leaders in the civil rights movement. It seemed at the time that the college staff were the primary leaders of the small liberal community in Bakersfield, which overall was a very conservative community.”