McHenry Library Renovation – A Noisy Wedding
by Eric Baker, Head of Operations, University Library

Summertime users of McHenry Library are being treated to the sounds of grinding and chipping coming from behind a wall of white plastic. What’s that about?

The original McHenry Library building is being “married” to its addition. This means that the builders must level the adjoining floors and make the space between the buildings fire- and smoke-proof. The process is complicated and involves the placement of insulation, smoke blankets, and metal plates. The chipping and grinding are a necessary part of the process. Library staff and users will be VERY happy when this particular wedding ends!

Builders are also busy completing tile work in the restrooms, installing sheetrock, working on the HVAC system, and polishing concrete floors.

On the exterior of McHenry workers are “spalling,” which means they are repairing the flakes, dings, and cracks sustained over the past 30 years. Workers are also completing the repaving of the entrance area on the building’s north side.

Though it is old news to residents of Santa Cruz, our far-flung readers might not know that on the night of April 15th a fire broke out in the part of McHenry Library under renovation. The fire was quickly extinguished with no harm to library collections. Smoke, however, flooded the library addition; this resulted in the building being closed for a week.

The fire and the cleaning that followed caused the postponement, once again, of the scheduled completion of work. We have high hopes that we will open a fully refurbished McHenry Library in the fall of 2011.

We plan to celebrate in spring 2012. We look forward to your being here to join us!
“NEW YORK ... GOT THE WAYS AND MEANS ...” More than 40 guests jumped at the exclusive invitation to spend an evening with Bill Kreutzmann in New York City in May, listening to the founding member of the Grateful Dead reminisce about his experiences as the longtime drummer for the band. A fund-raiser for the Grateful Dead Archive, it was hosted by UC Santa Cruz alumna Michelle Edelman and her husband Asher, whose son is a passionate fan of the band and a drummer himself.

The event began with a reception at the Edelmans’ Manhattan apartment. Guests mingled informally, delighted by the chance to pose questions to Bill Kreutzmann, who also graciously signed a dazzling array of photos, albums, books, and memorabilia. Library Development officer Lettie Bennett was on hand to explain how donors could help the Archive with its efforts, and Grateful Dead Archivist Nicholas Meriwether answered questions about the Archive’s work, plans, and long-term goals.

After brief addresses by Michele Edelman and Nicholas Meriwether, spiced with interjections from Bill Kreutzmann that delighted the audience, guests reconvened at the New-York Historical Society a few blocks away. Host to the enormously popular exhibit featuring materials from the Grateful Dead Archive, the exhibit has garnered rave reviews from even jaded New Yorkers, as well as museum professionals, the media, and Deadheads. The nearly 300-item exhibit draws on materials from every part of the band’s luminous 30-year career, illustrating the creation of the band’s singular musical and artistic vision, along with the development of their remarkable following, the Deadheads.

“New York was critical for the Dead’s development as a touring band,” Meriwether explained. “It’s wonderful that once again, New Yorkers are demonstrating their support for the Dead and helping us preserve that history and legacy for future generations to learn from and enjoy.”
UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

EXHIBIT

CULTIVATING A MOVEMENT:
A HISTORY OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ORGANIC FARMING ON CALIFORNIA’S CENTRAL COAST
September 1-December 10, 2010
McHenry and Science and Engineering Libraries

The Regional History Project recently completed oral histories with fifty-eight farmers, activists, researchers, and educators who shaped the organic farming and sustainable agriculture movement on the Central Coast and beyond over the past four decades. This exhibit at both library buildings features images and excerpts from the oral histories as well as contextualizing material from the Library’s collections.

Thanks to Richard Wohlfeiler for designing yet another beautiful exhibit poster, Laura McClanathan for creating the handout and contributing to exhibit aesthetics, and Regional History student intern Michelle Miller for helping with exhibit setup.

--Irene Reti

RECEPTION

Thursday, October 14, 2010, 4:00-6:00 pm, UCSC Science and Engineering Library Current Periodicals Room

A celebratory event with Sam Farr on the release of Cultivating a Movement: A History of Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Farming on California’s Central Coast and the UCSC Library’s current exhibit at both McHenry and Science & Engineering library buildings. The exhibits feature images and excerpts from the oral histories and contextualize material from the UCSC Library’s collections.

Cultivating a Movement features colorful, informative oral histories told by dozens of pioneers in the development of organic farming and sustainable food systems in California’s Central Coast region. The interviews, conducted by the UCSC Library’s Regional History Project, include large- and small-scale farmers, farm advisors, activists, educators, researchers, policymakers, farmers’-market managers, food distributors, and other shapers of forty years of agricultural history. These interviews include: Dick Peixoto from Lakeside Organics; Jim Rider from Bruce Rider & Sons; Dale Coke from Coke Farm; Andy Griffin from Mariquita Farm; Ken Kimes and Sandra Ward from New Natives Farm; Roy Fuentes (Fuentes Berry Farm) who grows for Driscoll’s; Jo Ann Baumgartner from Wild Farm Alliance; Sam Earnshaw and Reggie Knox from Community Alliance with Family Farmers; Florentino Collazo and María Luz Reyes of La Milpa Farm and the Agriculture and Land Based Training Association (ALBA); María Inés Catalán of Catalán Family Farm; JP Perez of J & P Organics; and Nancy Gammons of Four Sisters Farm and the Watsonville Farmers’ Market.

Congressman Sam Farr
Lifelong Learning at the Library

Retirement and the phrase “lifelong learning” are often linked. The skills of using card catalogs and printed journal indexes served many of us well at the beginning of our careers. Oh, but the changes we’ve seen! The online catalog, Google Scholar, and a multitude of specialized databases offer a wealth of new research possibilities.

Library Reference Specialist Laura McClanathan realized that emeriti faculty members & retirees want to refresh their online library skills, and are still actively researching and publishing. Along with Reference Librarian Frank Gravier, Laura offers a quarterly class just for them. As Laura noted, “It feels so good to give back to the professors who gave me so much during my time at UCSC. I really enjoy being able to teach them what I’ve learned about effective library research from my years in the library. I was a student and staff member before the internet, so I understand what it’s like to bridge that gap and have to continue to adapt.”

Recent attendees included the following disciplines: History of Art & Visual Culture (HAVC), Theater Arts, Psychology, Sociology, American Studies, Politics, Community Studies, Music, Literature, History, University Relations, and the Library. Retiree artist and author Renee Flower was especially pleased. She commented, “I got a guided tour of the many online paths to access the specialized information I need in my research.” Other participants were eager to express their appreciation of the class and the variety of tools the UCSC Library offers:

“You provided helpful tips on how to navigate the library website and take advantage of changes.”

“You showed up-to-date methodologies for searches.”

“I appreciate all you do for us. It is also great that you help us with inevitable highly specialized requests.”

“I learned several new approaches and you clarified some things I didn’t fully understand.”

“You provided a comprehensive overview. The ongoing chatting with librarians is valuable.”

“Not just immensely informative, also a very happy time spent in good company.”

Especially for Friends of the Library

A research tutorial happens Thursday, October 21st at 6:30 p.m. McHenry Library, 2nd floor instruction room. Ken Lyons and Laura McClanathan are co-instructors. Learn how to make the very most of your university library’s riches.

We are very fortunate that Laura has agreed to provide library research classes just for Friends of the Library. You’ll be amazed at the ease of finding just what you want…with a little help from Laura!

To be added to the email list to be notified of the next classes in the series, whether you are emeritus faculty, a retiree, or a Friend of the Library, let Laura know at lauramcc@ucsc.edu.