OC Civil Rights History Exhibit

“Orange County Civil Rights: A History of an Enduring Struggle for Equality,” an OC Human Relations traveling exhibit celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, was on display at the Nealley Library from October 6-31, 2014. The exhibit explores the civil rights history of the United States and honors “extraordinary contributions towards bringing equality to Orange County and the nation.” Librarian Yolanda Garcia coordinated with OC Human Relations to bring the exhibit to SAC.

Freedom to Read Book Prize Winners

Joksan Hernandez wins *Johnny Got His Gun* (above left); Victor Ambriz wins *The Color Purple* (above right).

The Nealley Library held another popular book prize drawing and display this fall to correspond with the American Library Association’s annual Banned Books Week. The display featured books that have been removed or attempts were made to remove them from U.S. libraries. Six books were prizes in a drawing that 296 students entered.

Have You Ever Dreamed of Working in a Library?

The SAC Library Technology Program prepares students to work as Library Technicians and Library Assistants in public, school, academic, and special libraries. (Special libraries include libraries in museums, hospitals, law firms, and other establishments.) Students may elect to receive a certificate or associate’s degree. The final fieldwork course allows students the opportunity to complete two internships at local libraries.

Enrollment into the program is possible during the fall and spring semesters. Students wanting to get started during the Spring 2015 semester may take LT 054: Children’s Library Services. For questions about the program, contact Stacy Russo at russo_stacy@sac.edu or 714-564-6712.

Library Technology student Jade Cortez interning at a public elementary school library (above left); Library Technology student Irene Chua interning at a private high school library (above right).
Welcome to SAC: New Librarian and Staff Profiles

Brenda Ortiz, Library Technician I

Brenda joined the staff of the Nealley Library in May 2014. She assists patrons with the checking out of materials and performs various other tasks at the Circulation Desk near the entrance of the library. She continues to work as a Library Clerk in the Children’s Department at the Santa Ana Public Library, which is a position she has held for the last two years. Brenda has a bachelor’s degree in human development from Cal State Fullerton and a Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University.

At the time of this interview, Brenda was getting ready to fly to Paris in three days. Over the last three years she has traveled to Jamaica, Hawaii, and Mexico. Brenda was born in Bellflower and has lived in Southern California her entire life. She has a great passion for photography, particularly landscape and fashion, which she would like to pursue more in the future. She loves dancing, chocolate, and music. Her favorite movie is Fight Club and her favorite bands are Radiohead and the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Annie Knight, Librarian

Annie joined the SAC faculty as a full-time librarian in August 2014. She served as a librarian at Chapman University for the past seven years. Her areas of interest include distance education. While at Chapman, Annie developed and taught an introductory research course. She has a bachelor’s degree in English from Cal State San Bernardino and a Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University.

Annie was born in Riverside. She lived in Santa Cruz and Culver City before moving to Santa Ana five years ago. She has many passions, including playing Scrabble; collecting and creating zines; reading, cooking; eating; and listening to music. In her 20s, Annie traveled solo to France, Italy, and Spain. She has also been to Belize, Brazil, Argentina, and Tahiti. She enjoys taking road trips to visit strange museums, such as the Museum of PEZ Memorabilia in Burlingame, California, that has the Banned Toy Museum inside and the Mutter Medical Museum in Philadelphia.

Kolap Samel, Library Technician I

Kolap started working in the Periodicals Department of the library in June 2014. She previously worked as a library technician at Long Beach City College, a library clerk at a middle school in Perris, and as an intern at Riverside City College. She has also been a history teacher for middle schools in the LA Unified School District. Kolap has a bachelor’s degree in history from UC Berkeley, a teaching credential from Cal State San Bernardino, a master’s in education from Cal State Long Beach, and a Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University.

Kolap was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, but came to Stockton, California, with her family when she was less than one year old. She likes to read classics and children’s/young adult literature. She continues to be inspired by a sociology professor at Berkeley, which led to her senior thesis on education for females in Muslim countries. She also enjoys reading books related to her thesis and the broader topics of access to education and education technology.

Easy to Access Information on Social Issues and Controversial Topics

Do you need to find reliable information on a social issue or controversial topic for a paper, speech, or personal research? Check out the library databases CQ Researcher and Opposing Viewpoints! These databases offer helpful introductions and different viewpoints on a variety of issues, such as immigration, capital punishment, and violence in videogames. They also provide links to additional resources to help you along your research path. To access these databases, begin at the Nealley Library homepage, select “Find Articles and E-books”, and scroll down to the links “CQ Researcher” and “Opposing Viewpoints” located next to “Controversial Topics.” For further assistance, please visit or contact your friendly Nealley Librarians at the Reference Desk. —Annie Knight