Kelsey Timmerman
—2014 Cerro Author

The library is excited to announce the Cerro Author for 2014 is Kelsey Timmerman. He is the author of 2 books dealing with the effects of globalization. Where Am I Wearing: A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People that Make Our Clothes deals with how and where the clothing we wear gets made. His most recent book Where Am I Eating: An Adventure through the Global Food Economy takes on the food supply. Each book looks at the consequences of production models that focus, above all, on cheap. Cheap food and cheap clothing both, unfortunately, involve exploitation of the environment and human beings. Both books are designed similarly, with discrete chapters dealing with a specific food or locale where Timmerman has traveled to research.

Timmerman’s books have been used by anthropology, sociology, writing, and business classes on other campuses, and we see them tying in with nutrition and agriculture classes, too. Since the librarians help students with their research, we know these books are relevant to many of the topics that students focus on for papers and speeches, such as ethics, immigration, labor patterns, globalization, food scarcity, and consumerism. We hope that professors whose students explore topics like these will adopt one of Timmerman’s books, not just because they are compelling reads on compelling topics, but also to give students the opportunity to meet an author whose book they have read. To assist you in making that decision, the library will provide examination copies of the books available to professors who are considering adoption. Contact Dawn Dobie, the Cerro Author coordinator (ddobie@bakersfieldcollege.edu). In addition, to get a sense of Timmerman’s voice, you can find ample information on the web: he blogs for the Huffington Post (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kelsey-timmerman/) and maintains a website (http://whereamiwearing.com). On his website, he even has curriculum ideas for each chapter of his books.

Timmerman will visit the BC campus on October 21, 2014. He will give presentations at 10 am, 2 pm, and 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Don’t miss the opportunity to engage your students in these important topics!

The 75th Anniversary of The Grapes of Wrath

Across the community, much ado is being made of the 75th anniversary of Steinbeck’s landmark novel The Grapes of Wrath. Here at BC, Jack Hernandez of the Levan Center for the Humanities—with a little help from the librarians—has planned an impressive array of activities celebrating the publication of this novel which chronicles the Joads’ journey to and time in the San Joaquin Valley. These events are open to both students and the public and all take place in the Levan Center. Events like these enrich Bakersfield College and the community; please encourage your students to attend.

Wednesday, February 5th at 10 am and 7 pm, author and Kern County native Gerald Haslam will discuss the novel as literature.

Thursday, February 17th at 11 am and 7 pm, author Rick Wartzman will discuss the banning of the novel in Kern County, which is the subject of his book Obscene in the Extreme.
Tuesday, March 25th at 7 pm, in “The Dust Bowl Comes to California,” panelists Randy Beeman (History), Michael Harvath (Economics), and Robert Torres (History) will discuss the economic and historic aspects of the migration to California.

Thursday, April 24th at 10 am and 7 pm, author Marissa Silver will discuss her novel Mary Coin, which was inspired by Dorothea Lange’s iconic photograph “Migrant Mother.” Silver’s novel, published in 2013, has been recognized as a best book of the year by both NPR and the BBC.

Off campus, Marc Lingo is reprising her presentation about the banning of the novel for the Kern Historical Society on Saturday, April 26th at noon. For more information, visit www.kchistoricalsociety.org. If you are busy on April 26th, perhaps you can come to St. John’s College in Santa Fe, NM on Wednesday, July 8th. Marc Lingo will represent Bakersfield College by presenting her research on the banning of The Grapes of Wrath for the annual Levan Lecture held at St. John’s.

Even more events are planned across the community. The Bakersfield Museum of Art is hosting several events in the next few weeks. An exhibition entitled “Horace Bristol: The Dust Bowl Series” features photography depicting the era; the exhibition runs from January 23rd to April 27th. A film about Bristol’s photography called The Compassionate Eye will be screened at the museum on February 6th at 6 pm. The Bakersfield Californian’s Robert Price will discuss his new book, The Bakersfield Sound: How Migration, War and Class Created a Phenomenon in American Music on February 5th at 10 am. In a different venue, on the evening of February 7th, a Grapes of Wrath Gala featuring the John Ford film will be held at the Fox Theater. Information about these and many other events can be found at www.csub.edu/ah/grapesofwrath/Events.html

A new report by Project Information Literacy published in December echoes the message of many studies about first year students: they are not prepared for the rigors of college. This study entitled “Learning the Ropes: How Freshman Conduct Course Research Once They Enter College” shows that freshman are overwhelmed by the resources available to them in college libraries and often fall back upon the Google/Wikipedia research strategies they relied upon in high school. Almost 75% of those interviewed report struggling with search terms, and over half are frustrated by the irrelevance of their search results. And almost half of the respondents could not make sense of or synthesize the information they found. Many of us assume that because our students are “digital natives,” they are comfortable in the information-rich environment of the internet; this study indicates the opposite. They feel lost.

Of course, this situation is even more pronounced at Bakersfield College, where so many of our students are first generation college students and come from high schools where research projects have taken a back seat to preparing for objective tests. From working with our students, the librarians have long recognized that many of our students are lost in the world of college research. We designed the Library Research Workshops to help them navigate this new world. But few students are motivated to come to the workshops without encouragement, so we hope faculty members will provide that incentive to help their students succeed.

If you are interested in reading the complete report, it is available online: http://projectinfotlit.org/pdfs/PIL_2013_FreshmenStudy_FullReport.pdf
Familiarity and ease with library resources can help students persist in and organize their academic endeavors. Just as a carpenter without a toolbox of equipment cannot complete a task, students without knowledge of academic research resources and skills are at a disadvantage in college. The BC Library wants to help your students feel at ease with the research process, and we have lots to fill their BC toolbox.

BC Library workshops that focus on seven important steps in the research process will be offered over a 10 week period this spring. The workshops offer both thorough introductions to and hands-on experience with everything from beginning the research process to finding and evaluating a wide variety of sources. The schedule for the workshops can be found at http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/library/workshop.asp. Knowing how to get the research done can help your students to persist.

Once the students’ toolbox is loaded, the library also has ways to help students organize their time, especially for long assignments. The UCLA Libraries have developed a great tool called The Assignment Calculator. The calculator allows students to spread the work of a research project into incremental steps that build upon one another, with helpful links along the way that explain various types of sources and evaluation techniques. With a few keystrokes, students can have specific due dates for various steps in the research process and input them into their own calendars. Faculty may also consider using the calculator to break research projects into mini-steps, giving credit for the research process as well as the final product. Find the Assignment Calculator under “Online Research Tutorials” on the BC Library web page or under “Links” on the BC Habits of Mind “Organize” web site.

B105.W3 L44 2012

BD444 .P54 2012

BF175.S7 P57 K37 2012

BF575.C88 T75 2012

BF311 .D466 2012

BF323.C8 W55 2012

BF575.B67 T66 2011

BF575.L8 K37 2011

BF575.L8 Y68 2012

Bazelon, Emily. *Sticks and Stones: Defeating the


Newsletter Editor: Marci Lingo
phone: 661-395-4209
e-mail: mlingo@bakersfieldcollege.edu