For Jon Else it was very much a warm homecoming. For his overflow, September audience at the first presentation of the 2017-18 Friends of the Library Charles Martell Author Lecture Series, it was a fascinating look back at the 1960s Civil Rights movement.

The focus of Else’s talk was his recent book, True South: Henry Hampton and ‘Eyes on the Prize, the story of the groundbreaking documentary that was the brain child of civil rights activist and film maker Henry Hampton. Else produced and served as cinematographer of this award-winning film. Of local interest, however, is the fact that Jon Else went through Sacramento schools and first laid eyes on the CSUS campus in the early 1950s as the eight-year-old son of prominent Art professor Robert Else, for whom the Else Gallery is named. “This place looked like the university of Death Valley” he told his audience. “There were a few scrawny trees, flat plains, and lots of dust,” he said. By sharp contrast, he took great pleasure in arriving for his talk to find a “vibrant, absolutely lovely campus full of energy.”

Else told the FOL audience of how he developed a keen interest in political and social issues being raised in a River Park home in which discussion of such matters was a matter of course, frequently including other prominent faculty from
Sacramento State. After two years as a student at Yale, Else left to work in the Civil Rights Movement in 1964-65 in Mississippi and Alabama. Jon Else went on from his school and college days to become an award-winning documentarian, whose credits include four Emmy wins, two Academy Award nominations, the Sundance Special Jury Prize, and Sundance Filmmaker’s Trophy, as well as a MacArthur “Genius” Grant. He’s now a professor in the graduate school of journalism at UC Berkeley.

Some twenty years after his work in the South with such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating committee and then with the War on Poverty in Sacramento, Else found himself working on “Eyes on the Prize.” The film very nearly didn’t get made. The original project was commissioned by a commercial network that eventually pulled the plug. PBS decided to back the film and it was finished in 1987. The documentary has been said to have reframed the Civil Rights Movement, and it had a lasting effect on documentary filmmaking.

Else’s FOL presentation was a fitting prelude to Sac State’s 50th anniversary celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.’s 1967 campus visit, on Oct. 16, 2017. For a complete schedule of events and parking information go to http://www.csus.edu/saseep/mlk/50th

- Bill Dorman

UPCOMING AUTHOR LECTURES 2017-2018

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017

Michael Fitzgerald, professor emeritus of Journalism at Sac State will discuss his environmental thrillers, the Fracking War and Fracking Justice. He’s been a magazine and newspaper journalist for more than 40 years. His third novel, The Devil’s Pipeline will be published next year.

Thursday Feb. 15, 2018

Shirley Ann Wilson Moore, professor emerita of History at Sac State will speak about her most recent book, Sweet Freedom’s Plains: African Americans on the Overland Trails, 1841-1869. Her specialties are African American history and the history of the western United States. She has also written To Place our Deeds: The African American Community in Richmond, California, 1910-1963. She co-edited African American Women Confront the West, 1600-2000.

Thursday April 5, 2018

James C. Scott and Amanda G. DeWilde will talk about their most recent book, World War I and the Sacramento Valley. James Scott worked at the Sac State Library and is currently a reference librarian in the Sacramento Room at the Sacramento Public Library. He has written 4 other local history books including Sacramento’s Alkali Flat. Amanda DeWilde is a special collections archivist in the Sacramento Room.
FRIENDS ATTEND LIBRARY BREEZEWAY SEATING AND STUDY SPACE UNVEILING

On August 23, the University Development Office and the University Library held a party to thank the many donors who contributed to the recently completed Library Breezeway seating and study space enhancement project. Members of the Friends of the Library attended, along with representatives of campus departments, community members, alumni, faculty, and other library supporters.

Library Dean Amy Kautzman welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the project. She pointed out that many of the tables now have tribute plaques permanently affixed to honor departments, community members, alumni, faculty, and other individuals and groups. Dean Kautzman thanked all who had contributed and encouraged everyone in attendance to consider “sponsoring” a table by donating to cover the cost of a table, then selecting wording for a plaque. There are many individual tables still available for sponsorship.

Additional information is available from Lisa Woodard-Mink in the University Development Office. She can be reached at (916) 278-3852 or lisa.woodard-mink@csus.edu.

New Library Gift Book Policy is released

The University Library has developed a new Gift-in-Kind policy to address the many questions received from interested donors. It is important that all interested donors know how to approach the Library with potential gifts.

Of particular interest to the Friends of the Library is the section on giving books to the Library. Often, gift books can be used to enrich the Library’s collections. Additionally, surplus books are directed to the Friends of the Library Book Bin, which sells them to raise money to benefit the Library. Because the Book Bin relies on gifts of books, we wanted to make sure you knew about this new policy.

The new policy is available on the Library website. Go to:

http://library.csus.edu/giving-to-the-library scroll down to “Donate a Collection”, and click on “Gift in Kind Policy”

--Roz Van Auker
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY PARTICIPATE IN CAMPUS WEEKS OF WELCOME LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE!

As part of Sacramento State University’s Weeks of Welcome events for students, the University Library held an Open House on Thursday, September 7 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The purpose of the event was to showcase the Library Breezeway and all the departments and services the Library has to offer our students, faculty and staff. Our new breezeway tables were put to good use to set up displays from the various departments. The Friends of the Library Book Bin had a table and volunteers hosted a wonderful interactive activity where students created their own book marks using ‘retro’ ink stamps, provided by Linda Martin. Visitors to our Friends Book Bin table selected free books from a wide array of great titles. Students were encouraged to complete a ‘stamp card’ that was validated at each table they visited and then enter their stamp cards in a raffle/drawing for many valuable prizes. The Friends of the Library Book Bin was also very well-represented in prize contributions as our volunteers provided many very generous gift cards for the raffle from The Campus Bookstore, Starbucks, The Grumpy Mule, Epicure eateries, Poke Noke Restaurant and Raley’s just to name a few. Our students were very appreciative of the prizes they won. A special thanks to Jean Torcom, Linda Martin, Michaeleine Veden, Sally Hitchcock and Andrea Fiske for their time, effort and generous contributions towards making our Library Breezeway Campus Weeks of Welcome Open House a wonderful success!

MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER ANDREA GUTIERREZ

Student Andrea Gutierrez, Director of Graduate Studies on the Associated Students Inc. (ASI) Board of Directors at Sacramento State has joined the Friends of the Library Board. Andrea is a graduate student in Criminal Justice and expects to finish her thesis and graduate in 2018. Coming to Sacramento from Temecula in Southern California, Andrea said that the Library was her first friend at Sacramento State. She was recently appointed by the ASI Board to be their representative on our Board.

Welcome Andrea!!

Computer Haiku

Your file was so big
It might be very useful
But now it is gone
--David J. Liszewski

Chaos reigns within
Reflect, repent, and reboot
Order shall return
--Suzie Wagner

Stay the patient course
Of little worth is your ire
The network is down
--David Ansel

From a contest on Salon.com. For more haiku and further information go to http://wiki.c2.com/?ComputerErrorHaiku
Below L-R: FOL Members Ann Haffer, Dean Amy Kautzman, Lisa Woodard-Mink, Jean Torcom, Charlotte Xanders, Leyla Bentley, Roz Van Auker, Terry Manns, Linda Goff, Terry Kastanis and Sally Hitchcock

Right: Dr. Leyla Bentley with the plaque honoring her late husband Charles Martell.

Center L-R: SCUA Head James Fox and Professor Ayad Al-Qazzaz

Above: Bev Gerth, former CSUS President Don Gerth, Ann Haffer and Charlotte Xanders.

Right: Plaque from Friends of the Library.