



History Newsletter



Published Biannually

Fall 2021

California State University, Bakersfield

Vol. 30, No. 1



Editor: Miriam Raub Vivian; Production Editor: Jean Stenehjem. For current information, visit our website at www.csub.edu/history/; for history program forms, schedules, and information, see the rack outside the History Department Office, HOB 131, or visit www.csub.edu/history/, and CSUBakersfieldHistory on Facebook.

FROM THE CHAIR by Miriam Raub Vivian

Fall 2021

As our fall semester wraps up, I look forward to an important transition ahead—one that brings most of us back to campus and a return to the social and dynamic classroom experience we have been missing (in most cases) for more than a year and a half. What a challenging time we have all been experiencing, not least of whom are our students, juggling school, jobs, family concerns, and more. With caution, vaccinations, masks, and the like, we should see a bit more of a normal semester this spring, at least with our program. Aside from two upper-division courses being offered by Zoom and one lower-division survey and one upper-division California History course (just added) all online, all history courses in spring will be face to face.

The numbers fluctuate some, but our degree program majors are growing in number, sitting at about 200 as of Dec. 13. Most of these are in the “Traditional” history track, but we have fully 16 students now in our “Public History Emphasis” degree program. This alternative degree program helps prepare students for careers in library and information science, and museum and archival work, as well as historic preservation and other public history careers.

Since last spring, some of our students have been taking the lead in planning activities for all history students, particularly opportunities to discuss books not typically read in their courses. The History Book Club (HBC), led by students and advised by Prof. Alicia Rodriguez, is a welcome new addition to our program, one that has expanded to host Coffee and Conversation as well. The HBC also plans to host a film night next semester. See inside for information on how to join and keep a lookout for emails that announce these events.

Our department’s History Forum lecture series is alive and well, currently with one invited scholar per term. There are details in the newsletter on who spoke in the fall and the speaker and topic for spring.

See *From the Chair* on pg. 9

ADDITIONAL COURSE ADDED FOR SPRING

HIST 3240: California History (a requirement in the Social Science program) has been added to the spring schedule. This will be taught by Prof. Dodd and will be asynchronous—that is, all online, with no fixed class meetings. If you need or would like this course, please sign up now to secure your spot.

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Chair	1
An Appreciation	1
Additional History Course	1
Vaccinations for CSUB Students	2
History Forum	2
Pandemic Research	2
New History Course	2
Alumni News	3
Graduate Program News	3
History Book Club	3
Faculty News	3
Student essay on Al-Razi	4
Phi Alpha Theta	5
HRC News	5
Student Research Funding & Programs	5
Public History Institute	6
New Language of the Office	6
Social Science Program	6
Exhibits at the Getty	7
The Writing Corner	8
Spring Schedule	9
Jean’s Retirement Reception	10

An Appreciation of Jean Stenehjem, our Administrative Support Coordinator

by Miriam Raub Vivian



I’ve dreaded the day when Jean Stenehjem would retire because she has been our steady hand at the History Department helm for 28 years! What we’ll do without her taking care of our program needs, I’m not sure, but after a long and dedicated run as the Administrative Support Coordinator for History, Jean deserves to get on with enjoying life more fully. In fact, she already has two trips planned for spring, cruises to Mexico and Alaska!

Born in California but raised in Pennsylvania (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area), she completed a college degree in psychology at the University of Dayton before returning to California. She began working in a temporary position in Alumni Relations back in 1993 before being hired to run our department in January 1994, where she quickly became recognized for her fast and efficient work and her willingness to provide faculty with whatever support they needed. I can’t imagine the number of forms she has filled out, how many term schedules she’s input into People Soft, or how many supply orders she’s completed over these many years. Memorable times include her helping with department and Public History Institute conferences, schlepping water or bagels or trays of fruit to the Dezember Reading Room. She also was a huge help setting up our first Coffee and Conversation gatherings near our building.

It was also memorable that when she joined our department, she had a 6-year-old daughter, just as Profs. Jeanne Harrie, Cliona Murphy, and I did. Good times! She’ll now have much more time to enjoy spending with her daughter, as well as her teenage granddaughter and near-toddler grandson—when she isn’t refinishing furniture or making candles, two of her favorite hobbies.

The entire History Department (past and present) wishes Jean all the best in her retirement, and we offer our deep thanks for her many years of looking after us all so well.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT REQUIRED VACCINATIONS FOR CSUB STUDENTS

Beyond the new requirement to be vaccinated against COVID-19 (or get approval for an exemption + weekly testing), all CSUB students since fall 2020 have been required to get the following vaccinations:

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (TDAP)
- *All Students Under 22*: Meningococcal Conjugate (Serogroups A, C, Y, & W-135)
- *All Students Under 18*: Hepatitis B (Hep B)
- **ALL STUDENTS**: Tuberculosis Test (TB)

See this link to learn more about these requirements and how to upload your vaccine record:

<https://www.csub.edu/healthcenter/immunizations/>

Students who are not up to date on their (non-COVID) vaccinations by Feb. 25, 2022, will not be able to register in the spring for fall 2022 classes.

HISTORY FORUM



On 8 October 2021, Dr. Mari K. Webel (Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh) gave the first of two History Forum talks that will be hosted by the History Department in the 2021/2022 academic year. The topic was Webel's first book, *The Politics of Disease Control. Sleeping Sickness in Eastern Africa, 1890-1920* (Ohio University Press, 2019). The talk focused on epidemics of sleeping sickness (human African trypanosomiasis) around Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika in the early twentieth century as well as the colonial public health programs designed to control them. Webel drew on local histories and case studies of populations of colonial Burundi, Tanzania, and Uganda to frame her arguments within a zone of vigorous mobility and exchange in eastern Africa, where African states engaged with the Belgian, British, and German empires. Situating sleeping sickness control within African intellectual worlds and political dynamics, Webel connected responses to sleeping sickness with experiences of historical epidemics such as plague, cholera, and smallpox, demonstrating important continuities before and after colonial incursion. Webel's talk was co-sponsored by CSUB's Department of History, the School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, & Engineering, and the Dhada Family Foundation. There was a sizeable attendance on the Zoom Webinar, including CSUB President Lynnette Zelezny.

The History Forum Committee is excited to officially announce the speaker for our spring 2022 lecture event! We are delighted to be able to host Professor and Chair of the Chicana/o Studies Department at CSU Channel Islands, **Dr. José M. Alamillo**. Broadly speaking, Professor Alamillo's scholarship focuses on the ways in which Mexican migrants and Mexican Americans used culture, leisure, and sports as avenues for building community and gaining political and economic mobility in the United States across the twentieth century. His most recent monograph, *Deportes: the Making of a Sporting Mexican Diaspora* (July 2020), traces the story of Mexican athletes in the first half of the twentieth century, as they fought for an end to racial discrimination on the field and in the sporting industry at large. A transborder study, *Deportes* uncovers the lesser-known experiences of amateur, semi-professional, and professional women and men competing in a range of sports, as well as their cadres of coaches, fans, and parents, as they collectively raised awareness about civil rights issues within and outside of the sporting world. Dr. Alamillo has taught a broad range of courses on Chicana/o history and culture, with a focus on transborder and interdisciplinary perspectives. His teaching also incorporates service-learning projects, including student training in museum exhibition curation. His talk will be delivered via Zoom. Stay tuned for details regarding the date and time of the event.

PANDEMIC RESEARCH GROUP MINI-GRANTS

You may have noticed the recent email from Leslie Williams about the Pandemic Research Group Mini-Grants for Faculty and Student Research. As a member of the Steering Committee of the Pandemic Research Group, Dr. Sean A. Wempe is happy to report that **PAST** pandemics are also going to be considered as viable research projects for these grants (not just the current COVID-19 Pandemic). To that end, any students interested in pursuing such grants can find instructions and apply

here: <https://csub.infoready4.com/#competition-Detail/1856127>. **The deadline for submissions is January 10, 2022. Students will need a faculty mentor lined up ahead of time, in addition to completing all other requisite parts of the application.** History Students--Undergraduate or Graduate--with further questions about the mini-grants are welcome to contact Dr. Wempe at swempe@csub.edu.

NEWLY APPROVED COURSE FOR 2022/2023 HIST 3600: BLACK EUROPE

A new course was recently approved by the Arts & Humanities Curriculum Committee. HIST 3600: Black Europe: The History and Politics of Blackness in Modern Europe, explores the contributions, participation, and history of millions of Black Europeans and their ancestors. The Afro-European experience has garnered increased attention from scholars in recent years, expanding on the theoretical and methodological framing of the global African Diaspora. Although Europe is often mistakenly seen as homogenously "white" in the presentation of its history, it has been multiracial for centuries. Africans and descendants of the African Diaspora have lived on and contributed to societies in the European continent since antiquity. This course seeks to challenge misconceptions about European history by seriously engaging with that history, especially looking at how race in Europe related to processes such as democratization, industrialization, imperialism, and decolonization and seminal events like the two World Wars and the Cold War. Though the geographic focus of this course may vary within Europe depending on the instructor, it will predominantly focus on the history and politics of Blackness in one or more countries in the 19th and 20th centuries, such as Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. The course will be offered for the first time in Spring 2023.

ALUMNI NEWS

Bob Christie (BA '95), a political reporter for The Associated Press based in Phoenix, Arizona. His focus is on issues that resonate with a national audience. He has covered presidential, U.S. Senate and congressional elections in Arizona, as well as state races for the past decade, most recently covering the tumultuous recount of the 2020 presidential election results in Arizona's most populous county. His assignment includes coverage of the state Legislature, governor, and state agencies. He joined the AP in 2005 as an editor after spending 10 years with *The Bakersfield Californian*, starting as a reporting intern the week after he graduated from CSUB and working a variety of reporting and editing assignments before being named city editor in 2000.



Alex Mira (BA '98) recently earned his PhD from North Texas State University and is a Principal in Frisco, TX.

Congratulations to **Alyson Moss** (BA '10; MA '19) on being nominated and selected as this year's Rising Runner for the School of Arts and Humanities! Look for more about Alyson's achievement, which will be celebrated on campus in February, in the department's spring newsletter.

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

Eileen Díaz was awarded a Graduate Equity Fellowship by the Graduate Student Center at CSUB. Congratulations Eileen!

The deadline to apply for Fall 2023 entry in the History M.A. is April 1. Please contact Stephen Allen at sallen13@csub.edu with any questions or concerns.

THE HISTORY BOOK CLUB

Kyle Winn, President, History Book Club

Fall 2021 saw the emergence of the History Book Club, an ASI-chartered organization full of lovers-of-books and student historians. Devoted to reviewing and discussing an eclectic array of historical topics—from the obscure and absurd to the controversial and philosophical—members of the History Book Club seek to challenge their perceptions of the past. The club's officers include Kyle Winn, President; Emma Barnes, Vice President; Mark Arroyo, Treasurer; Charlotte Boggs-Knutsen; Secretary; and Karen Fuentes, Public Relations Officer. Dr. Rodriguez serves as the club's faculty advisor.

In September, before the club's discussion of the fall semester's first book, Elie Wiesel's acclaimed memoir of the Holocaust, *Night*, Dr. Stephen Campagna-Pinto, Professor of Religious Studies, delivered a presentation on the work's broader context and provided valuable insight into Wiesel's life. In October, the club discussed Eduardo Galeano's important book, *The Open Veins of Latin America*. In November and December, informal discussions and book recommendations continued over the club's Discord server. Among the books that the club will discuss in the spring 2022 semester are Melton McLaurin's *Celia: A Slave*, and James Joyce's *Dubliners*.

Beyond its fundamental role as a book club, the History Book Club has taken on the role of an informal student event organizer, serving students in the History Department and in the School of Arts & Humanities more broadly. For example, next semester the History Book Club, in conjunction with the History Department, is planning to host a History Movie Night, where students will gather to enjoy a historically relevant film and subsequently discuss it. The History Book Club also plans to host three Coffee & Conversations, which are opportunities for mid-morning meet-and-greets between students and history faculty on the HOB patio. Finally, the History Book Club will be organizing a Careers in History panel with several professionals.

To learn more about the History Book Club and its spring events, and to become a member, please join the History Book Club's Discord server at: <https://discord.com/invite/zdz3qWbAmZ>.

FACULTY NEWS

Stephen Allen was on sabbatical for the Fall semester and is putting the finishing touches on an article about Sports Science and Medicine and the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. He also published a book review in the *Hispanic American Historical Review* in November.

Prof. Dhada's work on mass violence was front page news in Portugal's national newspaper *O Publico*, occupying a full half-page in the July 29, 2021, edition. Demand for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission is growing now, with heightened sensibility towards war crimes reparation during Portugal's colonial wars in Africa.



This fall, **Prof. Dhada** was recognized by the CSU on their website ([https://www2.calstate.edu/csucsystem/faculty-staff/outstanding-](https://www2.calstate.edu/csucsystem/faculty-staff/outstanding-faculty/Pages/Dhada-Mustafah.aspx)

[faculty/Pages/Dhada-Mustafah.aspx](https://www2.calstate.edu/csucsystem/faculty-staff/outstanding-faculty/Pages/Dhada-Mustafah.aspx)) for his CSUB Faculty Research Award. Congratulations to Prof. Dhada!

Cliona Murphy's book chapter "Imagining Mexico through Thomas Coulter's Residence, 1825 -1834: Botany, Mining, and Diplomacy" is due to be published this month in *The Influence and Legacy of Alexander von Humboldt in the Americas* (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 2021).

Dr. Murphy was part of the planning committee for a virtual four-day conference (originally intended to be in person in Peru) of the Society for Irish Latin America Studies, held in November. The theme of the conference was "Commemoration, Memory, and Dialogue with the Past: Ireland – Latin America." The conference was hosted by the Universidad del Pacífico in Lima, Perú.

Dr. Sean A. Wempe was invited to give two presentations to St. Joseph's University in Connecticut on his most recent book, *Chronic Disparities: Public Health in Historical Perspective*. The talks, which focused on the history of pandemics and the particular history of the Third Pandemic of Plague, occurred on Zoom on 3 November 2021.

Dr. Sean A. Wempe also gave a talk to the Kern County Library System on 16 October 2021. The talk, entitled "The Forgotten Food Fight: Axis Rinderpest Bioweapons Campaigns and Allied Countermeasures in World War II," analyzed the attempts by the Axis at weaponizing the cattle disease, Rinderpest, to target Allied food supply chains in World War II and also explored how this weaponization effort resulted in the British, Canadians, and Americans jointly developing a vaccine for the disease that ultimately led to its eradication by 2011.

AL-RAZI: THE EMPIRICAL SCIENTIST WHO BROKE FROM TRADITION

by Erika Reyes

Throughout the 14th and 16th centuries, Greek medicine and the art of the Renaissance captured the hearts of the Western World. Crediting European minds for advancements in medicine, science, literature, and art, Western scholars have paid little attention to the Arabic world's contribution to science, leading to a disjointed view of history. With western scholars neglecting the contributions of the Arabic period, Islamic scientists have become obscured by the likes of Hippocrates and Galen and have inadvertently snubbed scientists from their rightful place as innovators of the Romantic period. Concealed yet not forgotten, some scientists of the Arabic world are noteworthy. Al-Razi is a case in point. Born in the ancient city of Rayy, Abū Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariyya al-Rāzi, commonly referred to as Al-Rāzi, grew to become a renowned scholar, talented in philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, music, and chemistry, revolutionizing the world of medicine. Brought into a world that relied on superstition, Al-Razi differed from contemporaries of the past and instead challenged the beliefs of Bedouin medicine by utilizing an empirical process that relied on reasoning, repeatable procedures, and moral codes that viewed patients with compassion and the science of healing as an art.

Al-Razi sought cures to common maladies which had until this point relied on “prophet medicine,” that is to say, folklore remedies dominated by the use of honey, and the practice of cupping and cautery. Resting on tradition and superstitious belief, Bedouin medicine was frequently practiced in the hopes that divine intervention would cure the patient of their sickness. Determined to break away from the notion that medicine must rely on superstitious conclusions, Al-Razi sought to usher in a new order based on observable facts while aiming to solve the mysteries of life. Asserting the belief that learned people of medicine must be educated in the science of the human body, Al-Razi aimed to revolutionize the practice of medicine starkly different from peddlers and their ministrations in search of a quick profit. Al-Razi augmented Greek knowledge with Chinese, Indian, and Persian medical practices tempered with practical observations he patiently documented as he engaged professionally as a physician. As a result, his followers instituted new mandates that discouraged malpractice and led to the development of medicine as an art that required consistent learning, practice, and the ability to question new information.

As an experienced physician, Al-Razi continually strived to advance his studies as a scientist by promoting the cause of empirical science. Having the courage to stand against tradition, Al-Razi believed that social conventions dating back thousands of years were not enough proof to maintain current treatments, advocating reliance on observable theories, even at the risk of sounding atheistic or anti-Islamic. Al-Razi's risks paid off as he was able to carry out the first recorded medical experiments in physiology and anatomy. He was instrumental in proposing the theory of immunity in contagious diseases after observing that those diagnosed with smallpox never seemed to contract the disease again.

When called upon to establish a central hospital in Baghdad by Caliph al-Mukatfi, Al-Razi investigated with scientific vigor ideal environmental conditions to locate it with the primary objective of facilitating rapid healing of his intended patients. To this end, Al-Razi hung up pieces of meat along the streets of Baghdad. Days later, the physicians would go to all the locations and inquire which meat had decomposed the most and which the least. Proposing that the site where meat was most rotten would make the area inherently unhealthy, Al-Razi proposed the hospital of Baghdad be built at the location where the meat had decomposed the least. Additionally, Al-Razi used the empirical observation method to discover the first cure of diseases: nutrition. After an extensive study of bodily organs, Al-Razi proposed a healthy diet as the most effective way to prevent disease. By advocating the routine consumption of various plants, fruits, and vegetables as forms of prevention and medication, the physician was able to conclude that a healthy diet would serve as a necessary tool to suppress illness and believed that “nature can efficiently combat disease, [and] the assistance of physicians will not be required.”

Considered to be the greatest pioneering physician of the Middle Ages, Al-Razi garners recognition not simply for his extensive 237 works or discovery of sulfuric acid but for implementing the ideas of a network of publicly accessible hospitals committed to treating with utmost compassion physical and mentally injured patients. As a multi-talented scholar, Al-Razi did not simply analyze the physical well-being but instead assessed the rational and spiritual issues facing humanity as he observed holistically the suffering, desires, and virtues of humans.¹ By validating the patient's emotions, the physician was able to gauge the actual issue plaguing the person and looked upon the individual as a being worthy of treatment regardless of ethnicity, religion, social standing, or income. Despite being accused of being a heretic, Al-Razi and his compassionate nature inspired other physicians to maintain a free-thinking spirit open to new ideas and ethically obligated to serve in the best interest of their patients.

Catalyzing modern medicine, Abū Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariyya al-Rāzi not only became the first person to conduct clinical trials but defined the role of a physician. Categorizing illnesses based on remedies, Al-Razi has left behind a legacy difficult to ignore in the annals of modern medicine. He is celebrated as a medical genius every year on August 27th in parts of the Muslim world even to this day.

Utilizing reasoning, repeatable procedures, and ethics, the most celebrated doctor of the Islamic world not only added to the field of medicine but contributed to its evolution while simultaneously raising the dignity of the medical profession, which had been tainted by peddlers in pursuit of easy money. Truly, Al-Razi in effect ushered in the Golden Age of medicine and deserves to be called a founding father of modern medicine.

Bibliography

- Ahmed, Kashif S. “Arabic Medicine: Contributions and Influence.” The Proceedings of the 17th Annual History of Medicine Days. University of Calgary, March 7, 2008. https://prism.ucalgary.ca/bitstream/handle/1880/47472/2008_HMD_Ahmed.pdf;sequence=1.
- Al-Khalili, Jim. “The House of Wisdom: How Arabic Science Saved Ancient Knowledge and Gave Us the Renaissance.” Amazon. Penguin Books, 2012. <https://www.amazon.com/House-Wisdom-Science-Knowledge-Renaissance/dp/1982617543>.
- Arshad Islam, “The Contribution of Muslims to Science during the Middle Abbassid Period (750-945),” International Islamic University Malaysia (Department of History & Civilization, October 14, 2010). <http://irep.iium.edu.my/2471/1/Abbasids.pdf>.
- Said, Omar, Hilal Zaid, Bashar Saad, and Anwar Rayan. “Greco-Arab and Islamic Herbal Medicine and Cancer Treatment/Prevention.” *Bioactive Foods and Extracts*, 2010, 49–66. <https://doi.org/10.1201/b10330-6>.
- Shanks, Nigel J, and Dawshe Al-Kalai. “Arabian Medicine in the Middle Ages.” *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*. U.S. National Library of Medicine, January 1984. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1439919/>.
- Waines, David. “Dietetics in Medieval Islamic Culture.” *Medical History* 43, no. 2 (1999): 228–40. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0025727300065108>.



Membership

It's always a good time to apply for membership in CSUB's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society! Are you excelling in your CSUB history courses? Earning As and Bs? If so, you may well qualify for membership, which requires a 3.1 or higher GPA in a minimum of four CSUB history courses (or all A grades in 3); we count ALL those you've taken here, not just your top four. You must also have an OVERALL GPA of at least 3.0. (Graduate students must have a minimum 3.5 GPA in four or more CSUB graduate history courses.) See our department web page for more information (www.csub.edu/history); you can also download and fill out a member application there and email it to me. Or contact me via email, and I will send you a red application form. A lifetime membership is \$50—worth the price when you consider that it can help distinguish your resume. It also qualifies you to participate in the annual PAT SoCal regional student paper conference, which will be hosted (after a two-year COVID hiatus) by Chapman University on Sat. April 16, 2022. There are also national awards for which you may apply, and membership enables you to purchase an honor cord on the PAT website (\$20) to wear with your regalia at Commencement.

Annual Phi Alpha Theta Paper Competition and JR Wonderly Memorial Awards

In early February 2020, faculty will submit strong student research papers to compete in our department's annual paper competition. Members of PAT are encouraged to write papers for their courses with an eye toward their being selected by a faculty member for submission to this annual paper competition. Thanks to the ongoing financial support of alumnus Peter Wonderly, the J.R. Wonderly Memorial Awards provide cash prizes to students who have written outstanding research papers. These awards will be announced sometime between late February and mid-March, and winners will be recognized by the department.

PAT Board of Officers, 2021-22

If you have any questions about Phi Alpha Theta, contact me or ask a member of our current board of officers: **President:** Emma Barnes; **Vice-President:** Kyle Winn; **Secretary/Treasurer:** Erika Reyes; **Historian:** Melissa Magana Magana; and **Paper Award:** Peter Wonderly.

And congratulations to our **newest members**, who have joined since the induction of new members last spring and who will be recognized at our spring 2022 department honors and awards reception: **Gabriel Arteaga, Karen Fuentes, Melissa Magana Magana, Debra Stapp, and Kenneth Ryan Stovall.**

RAILROAD HISTORY COLLECTION DONATED TO THE HRC

by Chris Livingston, Director and Archivist

This fall, the HRC received a railroad collection that documents the history of the Southern Pacific, the Union Pacific, and other railroad lines in the Central Valley. The collection contains a variety of primary source materials, including thousands of photographs dating between the late nineteenth century and the early 2000s. For students taking History 3860 next spring, this collection will provide an interesting and unique opportunity to organize and research an important aspect of Central Valley history.

HIST 4040: Oral History History 4040, which will be offered this spring, will introduce students to processes and best practices of oral history. Students can expect to gain “hands-on” experience in conducting oral histories from start to finish. Students will also be immersed in the legal and ethical issues that arise from the practice of oral history. There will be a series of discussions about oral history as a methodology of historical scholarship and visiting scholars who will share their experiences with the practice of oral history. For more information about the course please email Chris Livingston at clivingston@csub.edu, who will be teaching this history course, which is part of the Public History Emphasis degree program but may also be used by majors in the Traditional History track to satisfy their Applied History requirement.

STUDENT RESEARCH AND FUNDING PROGRAMS

The **Office of Grants, Research, and Sponsored Programs (GRASP)** invites students to apply to several research funding programs. Brief program descriptions can be found below; visit the links for more information:

- **Student Research Competition (SRC)** is held annually to promote excellence in undergraduate and graduate scholarly research and creative activity by recognizing outstanding student accomplishments at CSUB. Virtual competition guidelines and application requirements can be found at <https://www.csub.edu/grasp/StudentResearchSupport/StudentResearchCompetition/index.html>; upcoming application window will be February 1–24, 2022.
- **Student Research Scholars (SRS)** for academic year 2022-2023, funded by CSUB'S President's Associates, will support students working alongside a faculty mentor with a \$2,000 scholarship award to conduct a project involving research, scholarship, or creative activity. Program guidelines and application requirements can be reviewed at <https://www.csub.edu/grasp/StudentResearchSupport/index.html>; upcoming application window will be March 1-31, 2022.
- **Travel Support for Student Researchers (TSSR)** reimburses travel costs up to \$400 for undergraduate and graduate students who are presenting a paper summarizing their own research or scholarship or showing their own creative work(s) at a national/regional professional meeting/conference. Program guidelines and application requirements can be reviewed at <https://www.csub.edu/grasp/StudentResearchSupport/Folder/index.html>; applications are accepted through May 6, 2022.

Feel free to contact Manuel Barrera directly for questions or assistance via phone (661) 654-3534 or email mbarrera@csub.edu



THE PUBLIC HISTORY INSTITUTE AT CSUB

by Miriam Raub Vivian, Director

The conference on the 1920s will, we trust, finally happen here on campus in fall 2022. The “Turbulent Twenties” conference—already postponed twice due to COVID—will feature Music Prof. Joel Haney giving a keynote address about music in America in the 1920s, likely drawing on our own HRC archival collection.

“The Turbulent Twenties: A Centennial Exploration of America in a Changing World” will accept papers on topics related to (namely) America in the 1920s from established scholars, graduate students, and advanced undergraduates. Here are some of the topics we anticipate will be addressed: women’s suffrage, prohibition, motor vehicles, aviation, the KKK, agriculture, oil, the Red Scare, art and music, immigration, labor, and foreign policy.

Before that, however, **we have TWO spring programs on tap**, both planned as in-person events (in the Dezember Reading Room of the library) but also live streamed to accommodate those unable to join us on campus (fingers crossed).

The first is an exciting opportunity during Black History Month to hear from **CSUB alumnus Tyree Boyd-Pates**. A Communications major, Mr. Boyd-Pates has focused his career on museum work and the stewardship of Black history collections, first as History Curator and Public Program Manager at the California African American History Museum in LA and now as the Associate Curator of Western History at the Autry Museum of the American West, where he works primarily on exhibits and archives related to the Black experience in the West. His talk on Thursday, February 10, beginning at 6:30pm, is titled **“Remixing the Archive: Making Black History Contemporary.”** This program will attract a broad swath of CSUB students and community members but should be of special interest to history majors, particularly those in the Public History Emphasis degree program.

On Thursday, April 21, beginning at 6:30pm, the PHI and the History Department are co-hosting **“A History of History at CSUB.”** The evening will begin with a video of photos and film footage highlighting our 50 years as a major department at the university. A short trivia session will be next, followed by a panel of several of our retired, emeriti colleagues: **Jim George, Oliver Rink, Jeanne Harrie, Charles Litzinger, and Cliona Murphy.** A moderator will help us gain an inside look at the first four decades of the history program at CSUB, and a Q&A time will conclude the evening, allowing attendees to ask their own questions of our esteemed panelists. It will be a fun evening to pry into the History Department’s past.

Expanded from a recent *NY Times* article (**“The New Language of the Office, From al Desko Dining to Zoombies,”** by Emma Goldberg, Dec. 11, 2021), here’s a list of some neologisms that have resulted from COVID and its effects on work and school (as well as some heretofore less-frequently-used words). Most are all too familiar, though a few less so: Social distancing, Zoom fatigue, Zoombies, Covidiot, Doomscrolling, Lunch “al desko,” Covid self-screening, Polywork (doing other tasks while “at work”) Asynchronous learning, Virtual backgrounds, Mask up, Chin strap (an improperly worn mask), and “You’re muted!”

SOCIAL SCIENCE TEACHING

Are you interested in teaching Social Science at the junior high or high school level? The Social Science teaching areas include the academic disciplines of History, Political Science, and Economics. Public school teachers, however, are hired not simply as history, economics, or political science teachers; they are hired as Social Science teachers who may be asked to teach history, government, civics, or economics, and prospective candidates for teaching jobs are expected to demonstrate subject matter competency in each of these social science teaching areas.

If you are planning on becoming a Social Science teacher, you should familiarize yourself with the ways by which you can demonstrate subject matter competency. One way is to complete a subject matter waiver program such as the one that CSUB offers. This program has been approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). For the program requirements, please see: <https://www.csub.edu/history/Social%20Science%20Program/index.html>.

Having a good understanding of the requirements early in your academic program will help you move through the Social Science Program with the greatest possible efficiency. Successfully completing the Social Science Program earns you a subject matter certificate/CSET waiver, which deems you subject matter competent in the eyes of the CTC. Please note that it is not enough to simply take and pass all of the required Social Science Subject Matter Waiver Program courses. Certifications can be issued **ONLY** to those students who maintain a 2.7 GPA overall in the required courses. Note that any grade earned below a C- will not count for the Social Science Program.

If you do not earn competency through a subject matter waiver (certification) program, such as the one that CSUB offers, you may also demonstrate competency in the Social Sciences to the CTC by passing the three CSET Social Science Subject Matter Exams. For more information about the CSET exams, please see: <https://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/Home.aspx>

In July, the California State legislature passed new legislation that this fall led to allowing students to demonstrate subject matter competency by completing a mix of course work and CSET tests. For more information about this new option, please see: <https://www.csub.edu/sse/credentials/SMC/index.html>

Contrary to how some have interpreted the new legislation, you cannot be deemed subject matter competent with a History BA only. You must demonstrate subject matter competency in all of the social science areas in which you will be expected to teach. Please review your options for demonstrating, and remember that you must also complete a CTC-authorized credential program in order to teach. For information about the CSUB Credential Program, please see: <https://www.csub.edu/sse/credentials/index.html>

If you have questions about the Social Science Program, please contact Dr. Rodriquez, the Social Science Program Coordinator, at arodriquez@csub.edu.

EXHIBITS AT THE GETTY CENTER AND THE GETTY VILLA: TWO FREE SOCAL MUSEUMS

by Miriam Raub Vivian

It's no surprise that the last time I shared information in our newsletter about museum exhibits was two years ago, given the pandemic's effects on business-as-usual. These two amazing museums are back open now, however, though both require proof of vaccination. (A photo of one's vaccination card on a cell phone works great.)

The Getty Center is located right off Interstate 405 in Los Angeles; the Getty Villa is off Pacific Coast Hwy. in Malibu. Each is also open six days a week, aside from major holidays. (The Center is closed on Mondays, and the Villa is closed on Tuesdays.) Grab a friend or family member and plan your trip; perhaps you can venture down during winter break. To some extent, you can also explore Getty exhibits online.



At the Villa the special exhibit is currently “Rubens: Picturing Antiquity.” Here's the museum blurb about Rubens and the exhibit, which closes on Jan. 24: “A passion for the art and literature of classical antiquity inspired the dynamic Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640). Presented amidst the antiquities collection at the Getty Villa, this exhibition juxtaposes the artist's exhilarating drawings, oil sketches, and monumental paintings with rarely shown ancient objects, including exquisite gems owned by Rubens himself. Heroic nudes, fierce hunts, splendid military processions, and Bacchic revels attest to the artist's extraordinary ability to translate an array of sources into new subjects.”



At the Getty Center, there are TWO special exhibits of note: “Holbein: Capturing Character in the Renaissance,” ending Jan. 9; and “Transcending Time: The Medieval Book of Hours, running through Feb. 20.

Here are the museum's descriptions of each: “The 16th-century German artist Hans Holbein the Younger created portraits for a wide range of patrons, including scholars, statesmen, and courtiers, in Switzerland and England. Holbein's drawings and paintings, enriched by inscriptions and evocative objects, offer richly detailed visual statements of personal identity. Explore the Renaissance culture of scholarship, self-definition, luxury, and wit in the first major presentation of Holbein's art in the United States.”



“Manuscripts known as ‘books of hours’ were among the most widely produced and used during the Middle Ages. These decorated prayer books not only structured time for their readers (over a day, a year, and a lifetime) but their creation reveals an increasing demand for private and personalized Christian devotion. Featuring masterpieces of medieval illumination from the permanent collection, this exhibition offers glimpses into the daily lives of devout readers, the material features of luxury manuscripts, and the thriving late medieval book market.”

Experience art online! Here's a link to an article about the Getty's new digital project that enables virtual visitors to view exhibits from home: <https://www.getty.edu/news/get-closer-to-ancient-mesopotamia-than-ever-before/>

To visit, just reserve your (free) timed ticket(s) online; parking at each museum is \$20.

For more information, visit www.getty.edu/museum.

Profs. Miriam Raub Vivian and Cliona Murphy visited the Getty Center recently with Prof. Emerita Jeanne Harrie and Theo Zaninovich, who earned her MA in our program in 1997. It was a wonderful trip.



THE WRITING CORNER

by Miriam Raub Vivian

Let's Be Brief!

Or How to Tighten Your Verbal Belt

A Lesson in Avoiding Wordiness

Why be succinct? A student's chief concern may sometimes be to ADD words to fulfill a word or page requirement. Such papers, however, are weighed down by their wordiness. Tight, succinct writing gives your prose a forcefulness impossible with words that serve no purpose—i.e., empty, useless words. Forceful prose moves, and it pulls your reader along with it. By contrast, a reader can nearly drown in a sea of excess verbiage. If you somehow came away from high school under the impression that florid writing is good writing, you will do well to abandon that myth immediately; say exactly what you mean, and don't risk obscuring your meaning by shrouding it in a cloud of vacant prose. We will leave **that** to the experts: bureaucrats!

One of the greatest writers of the 20th century, George Orwell, is often cited for his adage to never use a long word where a short one will do. This requires that you consult a thesaurus only rarely; it's fine to seek alternatives for essential words in your essay and to vary your word usage, but it's a good rule of thumb to prefer English words whose roots are Germanic rather than Greek or Latinate—for example, "he chewed" has more bite, so to speak, than "he masticated." Just think how potent those Germanic four-letter curse words are, and you'll get my point.

Here's a test for your own writing: see how many words you can eliminate without losing the intended meaning. Be especially alert to empty or inflated phrases, such as "the fact that," "in this time period," and "in the event that." (A longer—and handy—list appears in chapter 1, section 1 of Diana Hacker's *A Pocket Style Manual*, often used in Historical Writing and Senior Seminar.) I find the following phrases particularly useless: "in the area of" (why not say "math" rather than "in the area of math"?); "despite the fact that" (how about "even though"?); and the ever popular "as to" ("our understanding as to the word's meaning" stinks compared to "our understanding of the word's meaning").

Can you tighten the belt on the following sentences by eliminating excess words?

1. He is a gifted student in the areas of math and science and in the study of English and history.
2. The trees are beautiful, and the mountains are beautiful, despite the fact that we must view them through a curtain of brownish, ugly haze.
3. Ronald is employed at an oil company working as a manager.
4. In the event that the Angels go to the World Series, it is my opinion that they stand a very good chance of repeating their performance of two years ago.
5. There are a multitude of reasons for students to feel overwhelmed at the present time.

Next, I'll share with you several sentences* in which a well-known statement has been practically lost amid verbose and florid phrasing. See if you can identify the original statement. (Hint: many of them were made famous by prominent historical figures.)

1. Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man salubrious, opulent, and sagacious.
2. A chronic disposition for inquiry once caused a domestic feline quadruped to lose its vital qualities.

3. At this point in time I have not yet initiated action to exercise the defensive and/or offensive capabilities available to me or employ the full spectrum of my weaponry.
4. Do not, however disadvantageous the circumstances, permit yourselves to be forced into a position in which you must acquiesce in the transfer of ownership of this vessel to persons owing allegiance to a country whose interests are inimical to those of ours.
5. You are enjoined from discharging the arms with which you are equipped until you are able to perceive certain distinguishing characteristics in the visages of those who seek to deprive you of the occupancy of this area.
6. Having arrived upon the scene, I initiated reconnaissance actions to determine the dispositions of the opposing forces and proceeded to attain the maximal strategic objective.
7. Illumination of these premises shall be terminated through activation of the extinguishing lever by the occupants prior to terminal departure.
8. I must be given maximum latitude to enjoy the benefits of our country, unfettered by degrading restrictions on my activities; if I am denied this privilege I would prefer to be permanently eliminated from the exercise of my viable functions.
9. Refrain from attempting to ascertain specifically what benefits you may accrue from this beloved homeland of yours, but contrariwise endeavor to identify what ministrations you might gratuitously proffer in its behalf.

(*Source unknown)

Finally, and closer to the stomach, imagine making chocolate chip cookies (using the usual ingredients) with these directions, a parody of bureaucratese.**

After procurement actions, decontainerize inputs. Perform measurement tasks on a case-by-case basis. In a mixing type bowl, impact heavily on brown sugar, granulated sugar, softened butter, and shortening. Coordinate the interface of eggs and vanilla, avoiding an overrun scenario to the best of your skills and abilities.

At this point in time, leverage flour, baking soda, and salt into a bowl and aggregate. Equalize with prior mixture and develop intense and continuous liaison among inputs until well coordinated. Associate key chocolate and nut subsystems and execute stirring operations.

Within this time frame, take action to prepare the heating environment for throughput by manually setting the oven baking unit by hand to a temperature of 375 degrees Fahrenheit (190 degrees Celsius). Drop mixture in an ongoing fashion from a teaspoon implement onto an ungreased cookie sheet at intervals sufficient enough apart to permit total and permanent separation of throughputs to the maximum extent practicable under operating conditions.

Position cookie sheet in a bake situation and surveil for 8 to 10 minutes or until cooking action terminates. Initiate coordination of outputs within the cooling rack function. Containerize, wrap in red tape, and disseminate to authorized staff personnel on a timely and expeditious basis.

Output: six dozen official government chocolate cookie units.

(**By Susan E. Russ, from the *Washington Post*, date unknown)

From the Chair cont. from pg. 1

Inside our newsletter is also news about opportunities for student research and funding available from the GRASP office, and new mini-grants for research on pandemics, past and present. There is also news of student achievements (current and alumni), including an essay by one of our majors about the achievements in medicine made by Al-Razi. In addition, look for updates on faculty scholarship and how students may qualify for the national history honor society, Phi Alpha Theta; that column includes the slate of new officers for this academic year, as well as our newest members.

Please be sure to check out information about exhibits at the world-renowned Getty Museum, which is really two museums, both free! There are interesting exhibits running there for the next few weeks.

And here's an important reminder about our required department skills courses: we offer HIST 2000, HIST 3008, and HIST 4908—our three-course sequence of required courses, **to be taken in this order**—each and every semester; in fact, beginning this spring, we are offered TWO sections of both Historical Writing and Senior Seminar EVERY semester. HIST 3860: History Practicum is likewise taught regularly, with an individualized focus that enables students to gain hands-on experience using the skills of our discipline. **Students planning to enter the teacher credential program after graduation may use EDTE 3000—a required prerequisite for CSUB's credential program—to satisfy the Applied History requirement.** Finally, students wanting to enroll in senior seminar must request enrollment from the department chair, who will review transcripts to ensure students are graduating at the end of the semester for which they seek to enroll; there is no self-enrollment in this course.

Finally, the biggest change next term will be not having our administrative assistant, Jean Stenehjem, running the department office. After 28 years with us, she is retiring. An appreciation of all she's done for us commands page 1, and we wish her nothing but the best ahead. This, and every past newsletter for our program, has been produced by Jean. We owe her a huge debt for her steady help in publishing this bi-annual newsletter, which allows us to communicate important information to our students and to record our own program's history.

SPRING 2022

Hist 1218.01	Survey of US History to 1877	Andreotti, Jenny	MWF	8-8:50am
Hist 1218.02	Survey of US History to 1877	Freeland, Katy	MWF	9-9:50am
Hist 1218.03	Survey of US History to 1877 jumbo	Dodd, Doug	TR	8:30-9:45am
Hist 1218.04	Survey of US History to 1877	Plata, Julie	TR	10-11:15am
Hist 1218.05	Survey of US History to 1877	Plata, Julie	TR	1-2:15pm
Hist 1218.06	Survey of US History to 1877	Kartinen, Kim	TR	5:30-6:45pm
Hist 1228.01	Survey of US History since 1865	Vosper, Andrea	MWF	9-9:50am
Hist 1228.02	Survey of US History since 1865	Andreotti, Jenny	MWF	10-11:15am
Hist 1228.03	Survey of US History since 1865	Andreotti, Jenny	MWF	11-11:50am
Hist 1228.04	Survey of US History since 1865 - jumbo	Garcha, Kiran	TR	11:30-12:45pm
Hist 1228.05	Survey of US History since 1865	Plata, Julie	TR	2:30-3:45pm
Hist 1228.06	Survey of US History since 1865 jumbo	Andreotti, Jenny	TR	4-5:15pm
Hist 1418.01	World History, Pre-history to 1500	Vosper, Andrea	MWF	11-11:50am
Hist 1418.02	World History, Pre-history to 1500	Vosper, Andrea	MW	1-2:15pm
Hist 1418(70)	World History, Pre-history to 1500- jumbo	Dhada, Mustafah		Online
Hist 1428.01	World History, since 1500	Chen, John	MW	2:30-3:45pm
Hist 2000.01	Historians Craft	Dhada, Mustafah	TR	2:30-3:45pm
Hist 2100.01	Introduction to California History	Freeland, Katy	MWF	11-11:50am
Hist 2100.02	Introduction to California History	Freeland, Katy	TR	10-11:15am
Hist 3008.01	Historical Writing	Allen, Steve	MW	1-2:15pm
Hist 3008.02	Historical Writing	Rodriquez, Alicia	TR	4-5:15pm
Hist 3140	The Guided Age & Progressive Era, 1877-1917	Rodriquez, Alicia	TR	1-2:15pm
Hist 3240	California History	Dodd, Douglas	OL	
Hist 3320	Ancient and Colonial Mexico	Allen, Steve	MW	2:30-3:45pm
Hist 3440	History of African Decolonization, 1922-1994	Dhada, Mustafah	TR	1-2:15pm
Hist 3480	Pre-Modern China	Chen, John	MW	4-5:15pm
Hist 3610	Mexican-European Connections, 1821-1982	Murphy, Cliona	TR	2:30-3:45pm
Hist 3860	History Practicum	Wempe, Sean	TR	2:30-3:45pm
Hist 4040	The Cold War in Asia	Livingston, Chris	MW	4-5:15pm
Hist 4248	Film and Identity in History (Ireland)	Wempe, Sean	T	5:30-8:00pm
Hist 4528	Plagues and Public Health	Wempe, Sean	TR	10-11:15am
Hist 4800	Independent Research	TBA		
Hist 4638	Building an Empire: A history of Rome (+honors)	Vivian, Miriam	TR	4-5:15pm
Hist 4908	Senior Seminar	Wempe, Sean	TR	11:30-12:45pm
Hist 4908	Senior Seminar	Garcha, Kiran	TR	5:30-6:45pm
Hist 4990	Individual Research	TBA		
Hist 5130	Reading Sem in American West	Dodd, Doug	W	5:30-8:00pm
Hist 5310	Reading Sem Latin American History	Allen, Steve	M	5:30-8:00pm
Hist 6970	Master's Thesis	TBA		
Hist 6980	Comprehensive MA Exam	TBA		
Hist 6990	Individual Study	TBA		
Inst 3900	Educator as Social Scientist	Moss, Alyson	MW	4:00-5:15pm



Published by the History Department at California State University, Bakersfield, 9001 Stockdale Hwy., Bakersfield, CA 93311-1022. Editor: Miriam Raub Vivian. Production Editor: Jean Stenehjem. We reserve the right to make any editorial changes to articles submitted. All comments, inquiries or suggestions should be directed to the editor.

History Department 130
California State University, Bakersfield
10HOB
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022

