



# History Newsletter



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## Editor: Cliona Murphy FROM THE EDITOR

As you can see from this edition of the newsletter, there has been a lot of activity for both students and faculty in the History Department. Miriam Vivian, Director of the Public History Institute, has just finished the year long commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the publication of *The Grapes of Wrath*. The Historical Research Center (HRC) has opened, and is providing wonderful opportunities for students to intern in the archives and learn the skills of Oral History. The History Department has completed the planning for the change to semesters in 2016, and has completely redesigned the BA and MA programs to reflect changes and new opportunities in the profession. We are also happy to announce that there are two searches in place to find new tenure-track professors in Latin American History (with a specialty in Mexico) and in Colonial/Early US history. Hopefully, these two new positions will begin in the Fall.



Dolores Huerta

**CSUB'S GRAPES OF WRATH CELEBRATION**  
by Miriam Raub Vivian,  
PHI Director

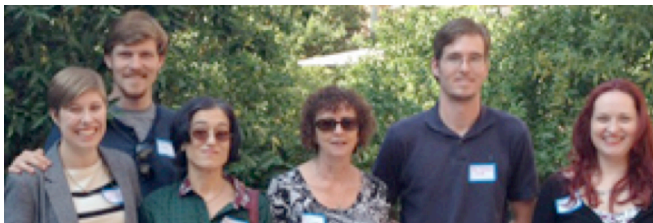
2014 was a very full year for the Public History Institute (PHI) which, supported by the School of Arts and Humanities, organized or sponsored perhaps as many as three dozen events on campus and in the community. (For a recap of events last winter and spring, see the spring 2014 department newsletter at <http://www.csub.edu/history/Newsletters/newsSpring2014.pdf>.)

This academic year kicked off with a History Forum talk in September on communism in California in the 1930s by Robert Cherny. (See the summary of his talk elsewhere in this newsletter.) Among other events were a Kegley Institute of Ethics lecture by Andrew Sullivan; "Bakersfield Built," an exhibition that opened in the Todd Madigan Gallery on 1930s See *Grapes of Wrath* on pg. 2

Our students have been busy writing and presenting papers, interning, doing research with professors and graduating. Two of our June 2014 graduates appear in this newsletter informing us about their graduate programs in New York and Sacramento. We also hear from a study abroad student in Florence. There is also news of alumni, professors' achievements and various exhibitions and events. Have a good read and enjoy the Winter Break.

## IRISH STUDIES COLLOQUIUM IN UC RIVERSIDE, SAT. OCT. 20

See Irish Artist Elvery on page 5.



Left to right Elizabeth Lewis, Grayson Parker, Dr. Carol Dell'Amico, Dr. Cliona Murphy, Daniel Anderson, Melissa Bowen

## CONGRATULATIONS TO JULIE PLATA OUR NEWEST MA GRADUATE

Julie successfully passed her oral and written exams in the American West and US history at the end of November. Besides studying for her MA exams this term, she has also been involved in conducting oral history interviews for the Historical Research Center.



## FALL HISTORY FORUM

On Thursday, September 25, Professor **Robert Cherny** spoke at the first History Forum of the year.



The struggle between communist and anti-communist organizations shaped California history during the 1930s. From the San Francisco waterfront to the fields of the Central Valley, strikes and violent See *Cherny* on pg. 8.

## INTERNSHIP AT THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER, CSUB

Would you like to do something during the winter break? The Historical Research Center at the Walter W. Stiern Library is looking for students to assist with the development of the winter gallery exhibit "First Women of Kern County." This task will include assembling materials for display and exhibit interpretation. The minimum time commitment will be four hours per week and some of the tasks can be completed from home. This project will begin December 1. The exhibit will open January 19 and run through March 13. If you have excellent writing skills and want to gain practical work experience please contact Chris Livingston at [clivingston@csub.edu](mailto:clivingston@csub.edu) or 654-3253.

**Grapes of Wrath cont. from pg. 1.**

Modernist architecture, followed by a tour of area homes and buildings in this style, which attracted participants from other parts of Southern California; and the Runner Reader lecture, in conjunction with One Book One Bakersfield One Kern, which featured journalist Sonia Nazario speaking about *Enrique's Journey*, with its parallels to John Steinbeck's Joad family odyssey from Oklahoma to California.



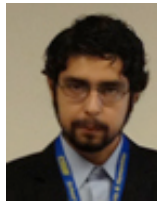
Susan Shillinglaw

for these addresses was the library's Dezember Reading Room, a marvelous "living room" that held the large crowds (including high school students) that attended most presentations.

Other features of the conference included two opportunities to tour Weedpatch Camp (formally the Sunset Migratory Labor Camp) in Arvin, dine at

The final three events this fall were major undertakings: a theatrical production, an academic conference, and an orchestral concert—all held at CSUB. With four performances by CSUB theater students, *From Dust Thou Art* was a revival of a play first performed in the Dorè Theatre in 1983. Based on CSUB's Odyssey Project, the oral history archive of Dust Bowl-era migrants housed at CSUB's Walter Stiern Library, the script weaves together the migrants' own words to create a powerful and emotional story of their experiences.

Buck Owens' Crystal Palace, and see a performance of *From Dust Thou Art*; a showing of the 30-minute film created by filmmaker P.J. Palmer, who traveled with staff from the National Steinbeck Center on their October 2013 "Onward" project, a retracing of the journey of the fictional Joad family; a reception at the "Bakersfield Built" exhibit, complete with "Hops of Wrath" beer from Tulare's Dust Bowl Brewing Company; and a bluegrass concert by Joe's Tent House Revival.



Elias Medina

"The Cultural Legacy of *The Grapes of Wrath*" was the theme of the conference held at CSUB on Nov. 7 and 8. Scholars from as far away as Tunisia and Japan joined U.S.-based scholars from New York, Virginia, Missouri, Minnesota, Texas, Utah, and California to present their

research in one of ten panels over five sessions. These presenters also included two CSUB graduate students—**Jenny Andreotti** (History), and **Keith Kirouac** (English)—and three undergraduate history students: **Jessica Ellis**, **Marriel Heiss**, and **Elias Medina**. History MA students **Grayson Parker** and **Julie Plata** joined library archivist **Chris Livingston** to discuss CSUB's oral history project and their experiences interviewing Bakersfield residents who experienced the Dust Bowl era.



Supported and guided by the Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, Richard Collins, and greatly assisted by Taren Alexander, part-time project manager for the Grapes of Wrath Celebration, the conference was dedicated to the late Ed Sasaki, a professor and administration at CSUB for decades. It was Ed's vision to establish a Public History Institute at CSUB, and his desire to see the rich history and culture of our region be recorded and commemorated.



Bob Price

Headlining the conference were six different keynote speakers who, thanks to generous donations from supporters, made up the "Grapes of Wrath Free Speaker Series," which was open to the entire community. These speakers were the co-founder of what

The yearlong "Grapes" project wrapped up only in late November, concluding with a multi-media event in which the Bakersfield Youth Symphony Orchestra (BYSO) performed mainly Dust Bowl-era music: Aaron Copland's Shaker melody (from *Appalachian Spring*) and portions of his *Rodeo*; a world premier of a work the BYSO commissioned from CSUB Prof. Doug Davis, whose *Dust Swirls, then Speaks (Journey to Hope)* evoked scenes of desolation and despair, as well as hope; George Gershwin's *Lullaby for Strings*, during which Dean Collins read passages from Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*; and, finally, a showing of Pare Lorentz' 1936 film, *The Plow That Broke the Plains*, while the BYSO played Virgil Thompson's film score, and Stef Donev lent his voice talents for the live narration.



Rick Wartzman

became the United Farm Workers, **Dolores Huerta** (stepping in for historian James N. Gregory, who was ill); journalists **Rick Wartzman** (author of *Obscene in the Extreme: The Burning and Banning of The Grapes of Wrath*) and **Dan Morgan** (*Rising in the West: The True Story Of An "Okie" Family*

from the Great Depression Through the Reagan Years); writer **Gerald Haslam**, speaking on both country music before the Bakersfield Sound (stepping in for Peter LaChapelle, who was unable to make it) and on his personal experiences with Steinbeck's 1939 novel (*The Other California* is just one of his MANY books); executive editor of *The Bakersfield Californian*, **Robert Price**, who shared a bit of his forthcoming book (*The Bakersfield Sound: How a Generation of Displaced Okies Revolutionized American Music*); and Steinbeck scholar **Susan Shillinglaw** (*On Reading The Grapes of Wrath*). The setting



Gerald Haslam

As the Public History Institute committee takes a much-needed break during December, it will take up discussions in January about future projects that explore and commemorate other episodes and groups in the history of Bakersfield, Kern County, and the Southern Central Valley.

## THE PUBLIC HISTORY INSTITUTE AT CSUB: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

By Miriam Raub Vivian, PHI Director

The **Public History Institute** (PHI) at CSUB has existed since the idea emerged in early 2009. One of its first efforts was to organize a conference at the university in conjunction with Oildale's centennial celebration that year. This became "Oildale and Beyond: Interpreting our Region Through Words, Images, and Music, an all-day event on Sat., November 7, 2009, featuring exhibits on the history of Oildale and the county, and twenty presentations in roughly six different panels.

Eight then-current and former CSUB history students made presentations. Conference presentations focused on three main themes: the impact of national events on Kern County; the experiences of ethnic groups in the county; and resources in the Valley (oil and water). Titles included "The Spanish Influenza in Bakersfield: The Lost Winter of 1918," "Oildale Basques," "Before Oildale There was Oil Center," Lockheed's Skunk Works and the U-2 Spy Plane in Oildale, California," "Cage of Freedom: The German P.O.W. Camps in Kern County," "A Forgotten History in our Midst: the WWII African American Soldiers of Minter Airfield," "The War on Poverty: Grassroots Struggles for Racial and Economic Justice in Kern Co.," and "Parting the Kern River: Keeping Peace in Kern County."

The afternoon featured two keynote speakers/performers (both native sons of Oildale!): writer and professor emeritus Gerald Haslam; and County Music Hall of Famer singer-songwriter Merle Haggard. Haggard and singer Marty Stuart were interviewed by Bob Price of the *Californian*; they also sang several songs.

Since the Oildale conference, the PHI's focus has been on collecting oral interviews of CSUB administrators, staff, and faculty for a 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary history in 2020, and planning a 75<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration of John Steinbeck's 1939 novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*. This turned into a yearlong project, with events at CSUB and in town and largely culminating in an academic conference on campus on November 7-8. (See the article elsewhere in the newsletter on CSUB's "Grapes of Wrath" celebration.)

None of this would have happened were it not for then-interim dean Edwin (Ed) Sasaki (d. August 2014). The PHI was his brainchild, and in January 2009 he proposed the following mission statement for a Public History Institute at CSUB, housed in what was then the School of Humanities and Social Sciences:

It is proposed that the School of Humanities & Social Sciences establish a Public History Institute (PHI) that focuses on oral

history in the following areas important to the economic, political, social, and cultural development of the Southern San Joaquin Valley in general and to Kern County and Bakersfield specifically: Migrant labor, Ranching and agriculture, Oil and natural gas, and Music ("The Bakersfield Sound")

The PHI will be located in the Department of History, because the Department has faculty whose scholarly expertise includes oral history. Therefore, the PHI can eventually become a "center of excellence" for CSUB through the research and scholarship of participating faculty and both graduate and undergraduate students. Through partnerships with the CSUB Walter Stiern Library, Bakersfield's Beale Public Library, Kern County Museum, Petroleum Museum in Taft, and other museums in Kern County, the PHI will be able to provide access to special collections and other artifacts representing the economic, political, social, and cultural developments in the early history of the region.

One major component of the PHI will be to raise external funds to support an annual visiting scholar in oral history with expertise in one of the four-targeted areas. This visiting scholar will teach one or two courses annually in his/her area of specialization to enrich the History curriculum, offer seminars for both faculty and students at CSUB and workshops for history and social science teachers at local area high schools as professional development opportunities, and will supervise oral history research by graduate students (masters theses) and, possibly, undergraduate students (senior theses).

Not yet in existence for six years, the PHI has managed to develop several important projects, though Dean Sasaki's vision has not yet been completely realized. Nevertheless, although our extensive "Grapes" celebration has only just wrapped up (with a campus concert by the Bakersfield Youth Symphony Orchestra), there are already discussions about potential future projects, some to coincide with the anniversaries of historical events, such as the Delano Grape Strike (begun in 1965), the sesquicentennial of Kern County (in 2016), and WWI (1917-8, for US involvement). In addition, collaboration with the Walter Stiern Library has meant two different oral history courses taught by our library archivist, Chris Livingston (CSUB BA, MA), as well as student involvement in conducting oral interviews, mainly of those who experienced the Okie migration in the 1930s and beyond.

Stay tuned for news of PHI projects (including lectures) coming your way in 2015.

### GETTY EXHIBITS

**World War I: War of Images,  
Images of War**  
Nov. 18-, 2014-Apr. 19, 2015



**Spectacular Rubens: The  
Triumph of the Eucharist**  
Oct. 14, 2014-Jan. 11, 2015



**Getty Villa (in  
Malibu)**

**Dangerous  
Perfection: Funerary  
Vases from Southern  
Italy**  
Nov. 19, 2014-May  
11, 2015



**Ancient Luxury and the  
Roman Silver Treasure  
from Berthouville**  
Nov. 19, 2014-Aug. 17,  
2015

## HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER OPENS



(L-R) Cliona Murphy(History), Provost Soraya Coley, Miriam Vivian(History), and library archivist Chris Livingston.

The library opened its long awaited new Historical Research Center, a hands-on training center in public history, a research destination for scholars and students, and an archive that will house community and campus memory, as well as historical treasures. In his remarks at the opening, President Horace Mitchell said that the Historical Research Center not only collects the past but looks forward, using the latest technology to preserve history while offering opportunities for a variety of unique and practical learning experiences. According to Mitchell, "While this center focuses on history, it is really about the future and about creating opportunities for students."

The Historical Research Center (or HRC) consists of three spaces: a closed fourth floor storage site, a large second floor technology room, archives and vault, the second floor California Rare Books Room, exhibit gallery, and conference room, which is open to the public Monday through Friday. The Rare Books Room is modeled on an English drawing room and is a beautiful and comfortable place for researchers to work. Chris Livingston, archivist and curator of the center declared "We are very happy with the way the room looks. It has that rich, warm feel of dark wood, old books and deep reading. People have been stunned by the transformation."

Livingston designed the initial exhibit, in the gallery area, which displays archival materials from the collection. The exhibit, called "The World of Archives," presents different types of materials currently held in the HRC, with explanatory notes. According to Livingston, "We chose this as an initial exhibit because we felt it was a great introduction to our archival holdings and an opportunity to explain what these resources are and why they are important."

Included in the exhibit are campus memorabilia, Civil War letters, a diary from a pioneering rancher, hand-annotated scores from composer Maurice Ravel to his music publisher Lucian Garban, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish will, and an 18<sup>th</sup> century indenture contract. "The exhibit might seem a little disjointed, but that was the point. We are highlighting what we have and what archives are. That required presenting a range of materials. Our future exhibits will be more specific and focused. The feedback we've received so far has been really positive," Livingston said. Currently the rare books room houses books from a variety of regions, subjects and eras, but eventually it will house only rare and valuable books from California.

The workroom is equipped with digital workstations that include a scanner capable of scanning map and poster-sized documents, and a microfilm scanner, which allows the HRC to build its digital presence and preserve collections it owns, as well as community collections it digitizes for others. According to Livingston, one of the goals of the HRC is to make community collections and regional collections available to everyone on the internet and also to teach students to design and build exhibits online, as well as physically in the gallery.

The HRC is also the campus center for oral history and will work with other community groups and other departments to collect the living memoir of the region. Currently, Livingston is negotiating a project with African American Dust Bowl migrants, which he describes as a forgotten piece of the migration that badly needs to be documented. The HRC has close ties to the CSUB Public History Institute, and both are working together on campus oral history and other projects. The HRC will teach students how to conduct oral histories and will engage them through internal and community internships and volunteer projects. A number of students have already experienced the benefits of working in the HRC. They have completed projects in oral history, exhibit construction, organizing and preserving historical materials, transcribing interviews, and searching for rare books and manuscripts.

Daniel Anderson, a master's student in History, has worked on numerous projects in the HRC. He was instrumental in getting the current exhibit in place. He is convinced that the experience he is getting is invaluable, "I plan to work in public history after I graduate with my M.A. I really have learned a lot from Chris and from my experience here."

Livingston, who holds an MA in history in addition to his master's degree in Library Science, was a former archivist for Kern County. He is teaching classes in oral history and archival methods in collaboration with the history department's proposed program in public history. Curt Asher, the interim Dean of the Library, explained that "We really want to build a culture where people know and understand the value of the historical record and how important it is to preserve it for future generations. We can do that by getting students involved in these projects and teaching them to see and appreciate that the rich history which exists all around them needs to be valued and protected."

While there are numerous internal projects already underway, the library is in the midst of developing an internship with Union Cemetery in Bakersfield, which will document the graves there and organize their historical records which date to the beginning of Bakersfield's history. Livingston wants volunteers and internship applicants to get trained and to work on projects. Volunteers don't have to be students. Livingston warned that, "This work is addictive," and added that, "It's the greatest work in the world, as far as I am concerned."

Contact Chris at 654-3253. This article was adapted from an article which appeared in *Stiern Library Associates Newsletter*, Fall 2014.

## HISTORY MAJOR BRIAN DE ANDA SPENDS YEAR IN FLORENCE, ITALY

Brian wrote to the department recently about his time in Florence: "I'm sending this email as a small update on how Florence, or Firenze as the locals call it, has been progressing. Actual classes just started this Monday. Italian grammar and conversation are included, along with the other classes towards my major. Firenze has also had its ups and downs such as homesickness, which I found out is very real. But, overall, I would say I am glad the chance to study abroad was available and would do it again if given the choice. I've met so many new people both from within the CSU program and throughout Europe, which would not have been possible without taking this chance. Learning Italian has been a bit of a challenge since Spanish and French tend to get in the way of my Italian, but so far so good."

We are delighted to hear from Brian and encourage other students to think about studying abroad. Check out the CSU international programs website at

<http://csuip.calstate.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Abroad.Home>

There are programs in 17 countries, Australia, Germany, Chile, France, China, Canada, Denmark, Japan, Taiwan, Ghana, Israel, Korea, Mexico, Spain, UK, Italy, and Sweden. The deadline for applying for the next academic year is February 1. Consider the possibility. It will change your life. Financial aid and scholarships are available. Dr. Cliona Murphy will direct you to the people on campus who can provide more information and help you apply.

## STONY BROOK RETREAT PROJECT

Graduate student **Olivia Garcia** and Professor Alicia Rodriguez have been working on a research project supported by the CSUB-sponsored Graduate Student-Faculty Collaborative Research Initiative. The study, "Reimagining the Stay: Historical Examination of the Stony Brook Retreat, 1918-1968," examines the history of the old Kern County tuberculosis sanitarium, Stony Brook Retreat, which was in operation from 1918 to 1968 in Keene, California, where the United Farm Workers National Headquarters and the National Park Service's César E. Chávez National Monument are now located.

While examining the institution in the broader context of the history of American public health policy is a goal of the project, the study goes beyond simply constructing an institutional history of the facility. Garcia and Rodriguez note that older studies of tuberculosis sanitariums focused on the founding and operation of these facilities, but scholars have underappreciated the personal experiences of those who were patients at the institutions. In an effort to integrate patients' experiences into a history of Stony Brook, Olivia and Professor Rodriguez have thus far conducted seven oral history interviews with former sanitarium patients. The interviews reveal a great deal about the everyday experiences and the emotional journeys that patients traveled, and will eventually become part of the Walter Stiern Library's Special Collections. They will be available to future researchers interested in Stony Brook and tuberculosis in the history American public health policy.



## RESEARCH PROJECT ON IRISH ARTIST BEATRICE ELVERY

MA student **Melissa Bowen** and her mentor Dr. Cliona Murphy were awarded funds by the Student Research Scholars Program (2014-15) for the investigation of a twentieth century Irish artist. The project is entitled "*The Beautiful Miss Elvery: The Life, Art, and Politics of Beatrice Moss Campbell, 1883-1970.*"

Melissa presented a paper, "Art, Domesticity, and National Symbol: Irish Female Identity through the Life and work of Beatrice Elvery" to the Southern California Irish Studies Colloquium at the University of Riverside in October. Her talk was well received by Irish Studies scholars and graduate students at the conference. Four CSUB students and two faculty member accompanied Melissa to the conference. Melissa will travel to Ireland in December to speak to Irish scholars about the artist, research in archives, and look at relevant artwork. Melissa is writing an MA thesis on this artist and her historical context.

## PH.D STUDENT JOVANNI GARCIA

*The History Department was delighted to hear from Jovanni Garcia who graduated in June 2014. She is now in the doctoral program at Binghamton University in New York State. She is on a full fellowship for five years. Jovanni won the History Department's Jim George Award in 2012, a prize for the most promising junior. Jovanni writes*

"Everything is going well so far...I already had my mid-semester breakdown. Grad school is really hard to be honest. I don't think that any prior training could have prepared me for the massive amount of weekly readings I have just for one class. I have learned to read while cooking, brushing my teeth, getting dressed and walking to campus. If your students ever complain about the amount of reading you give them, tell them that it only gets worse in Grad school.

Despite the never-ending amount of reading, I'm doing fairly well in my courses. I'm currently taking Historiography, War & Gender in 20th Century Europe, and Early Modern Europe Colloquium. I really enjoy the latter two classes but I really have to work hard in Historiography since it's really theoretical! Since I have no prior classes in theory, it's been hard to keep up with the social theory of recent historiography. If you have any students that are interested in Grad school, I recommend that they get somewhat exposed to historiographical theory especially if they want to do social, gender, or race history...if not they will be jumping off the deep end like me! haha

But the history department has been really helpful and supportive and I've been slowly but surely getting the hang of all of it. Professor Camiscioli is an excellent mentor/advisor in helping me adjust to Grad school and Binghamton. So far I think my studies will focus on the 'intimate' in French North Africa. It's still in the beginning stages but I plan to hopefully go to France next summer for a couple of weeks to look at some archives. And great news! I will begin my training to work with the *Journal of Women's History* this coming winter break as a copy editor which I'm really excited about! "

## SACRAMENTO STATE'S M.A. PUBLIC HISTORY PROGRAM

By Paul Rendes

I have always had a fascination with history and during my career at CSUB I was given the tools to hone my skills as a historian. In particular, I have been interested for quite some time in learning how history is applied in the public sphere. Thanks to Dr. Murphy, Dr. Vivian, and Dr. Dodd, I became aware of the public history field. In addition, I was given the opportunity by CSUB Archivist Chris Livingston to work as an intern in the Walter Stiern Library Archives and Special Collections, thus allowing me to gain valuable experience in work that is pertinent to public history. Attaining my B.A. in history from CSUB in June 2014, I am now enrolled in Sacramento State's M.A. Public History program.

Nearing the end of my first semester I can say that Sacramento State's M.A. Public History program is a challenging, but highly rewarding experience. Currently, I am enrolled in Heritage Tourism and Introduction to Public History Principles and Techniques. In the former, I have had the opportunity to tour Folsom Prison Museum and the gold rush country of Nevada County, and learn how cultural and natural heritage factors shape our communities and historic sites. The latter, on the other hand, has given me an understanding of the various professions within the public history field. These include, but are not limited to, archivists, historic preservationists, historical and heritage interpreters, cultural resource managers, historical consultants, government and community historians, oral historians, film producers, and museum curators.

The most rewarding aspect of the program, however, is the internships as they allow one to obtain practical experience and develop professional connections. As the capital, the Sacramento region offers a variety of opportunities for public historians. Specifically, public historians often find employment at state agencies. In August I began working at the California State Archives where I have acquired knowledge of archival practices and techniques, and gained experience processing and making collections accessible for researchers. As the archival field increasingly focuses on digitizing material, I also hope to work in the near future at the Sacramento Public Library where I will attain vital knowledge and skills related to digitization practices. Overall, I recommend this program for anyone interested in promoting history outside of the traditional academic setting.

### HISTORY STUDENTS WORKING ON PROJECTS IN THE HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER

Daniel Anderson (MA student), Student Assistant: Daniel is working on a variety of projects including conducting and transcribing oral history interviews, digitizing photos, developing gallery exhibits, and accessioning incoming collections.

Lance Nelson (MA student) (intern) is inventorying and processing a petroleum/geology collection.

Grayson Parker (MA student) is processing oral history interviews.

Julie Plata (MA student) is conducting oral history interviews.

Donato Cruz (BA student) is working on a joint project with Jennifer Burger, to archive and digitize historic issues of *The Runner* Newspaper.

Kim Kartinen (BA student) is working as an intern processing a video collection transferred to the HRC by the Athletics Department.

Marcus Boriago-Hackler (BA student) has been assisting with the processing of a political papers collection and transcribing oral history interviews.

Former History Student Andrea Anderson has been working with Chris Livingston for the past two years processing archival collections, writing abstracts of oral history interviews, and transcribing oral history interviews.

### Announcement about Internships

The HRC is offering the following internship opportunities:

#### ***Historic Preservation Internship:***

Description--This internship is off campus (a reliable mode of transportation is required) at the Historic Union Cemetery. Duties include grave documentation and arrangement/description of historic records. Data entry may also be required.

Qualification--should have knowledge of a variety of software applications and technologies such as MS Word, MS Excel, and iPods/tablets.

One qualified intern will be selected from the pool of applicants.

#### ***Oral History Transcription/Digitization assistant:***

Description--There are two aspects to this internship: 1)Transcribe oral histories and proofread transcription for spelling and other errors. 2) Migrate cassette recordings to a digital format.

Qualifications--advanced knowledge of MS Word; ability to listen actively; ability to work independently with minimal supervision.

There are several positions available.

### Volunteer Positions

The HRC offers a variety of volunteer opportunities:

#### ***Processing Assistant:***

Description--assists with the initial intake and processing of archival records.

Qualifications--knowledge of MS Word and MS Excel; ability to work independently with minimal supervision.

For more information about these opportunities or for information about how to apply for an internship please contact Chris Livingston at 654-3253.

### Upcoming Course

Coming in the Spring of 2015: GST 114-- This 2-unit course introduces students to the process and best practices of conducting an oral history from start to finish. This course will also explain to students the process of material appraisal and acquisition as it applies to the archive. The skills that will be stressed in this course will include identifying interviewees, interview techniques, ethical and legal considerations, See Upcoming Course, cont. on pg. 7.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Kenny Antoniono** ('14) has been accepted for the masters program in history at Texas State University and will begin his studies there in January. Congratulations, Kenny!

**Scott S. Reed** ('10) is a teacher at Greenfield Union School District. He obtained his first teaching job at Greenfield Middle School in August 2013.



**Claudia Garcia** was the Outstanding Graduating Senior in History (AND Art History) in 1998. She and her husband, Matt Des Lauriers, went on to earn PhDs in anthropology at UC Riverside. He is now teaching at CSU Northridge, and Claudia is at Cal Poly Pomona. Congratulations, Claudia!

**Celeste Sharpe** (BA 2009) is a PhD Candidate in history and art history at George Mason University, in Fairfax, Virginia. She received her MA in history from the University of Calgary. Her dissertation, titled "They Need You!: Disability, Visual Culture, and the Poster Child, 1945-1980," examines how charitable organizations, disabled children and their families, and the public understood and shaped ideas about disability, identity, philanthropy, family, and the nation after WWII. The focus for this project is on representations and understandings of physical disability, with depictions of polio and muscular dystrophy serving as the central case studies. From: <http://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/people/csharpe2>

## FACULTY NEWS

Professor **Mustafah Dhada** was a visiting professor/scholar at Coimbra University, Portugal in late November. He lectured to students in the Ph.D. program on Post-colonialisms and Global Citizenship.

**Dr. Dhada** presented a paper at the African Studies Association November 2014 Conference on "Wiryamu, Lost and Found: How Did the 1972 Massacre Happen and What Was Lost in the Process."

**Mustafah Dhada** also successfully exhibited his recent drawings and Sculpture works at the FusionGlass Art Gallery in late September Early October. Here is a poster that announces the exhibition.

In August, **Douglas Dodd** participated in a National Endowment for the Humanities Institute, "Doing Digital History," at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University. While in the Washington, DC, area he also conducted research in Record Group 35, Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps, at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.

In October, **Douglas Dodd** traveled to Sacramento to attend the annual meeting of the California Council for the Promotion of History. While there, he conducted research in the California History Section, California State Library. The library holds a scrapbook of newspaper clippings documenting the work of the Works Progress Administration in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, 1938-1941. Dr. Dodd's trip was supported by a grant from the Faculty Teaching and Learning Center.

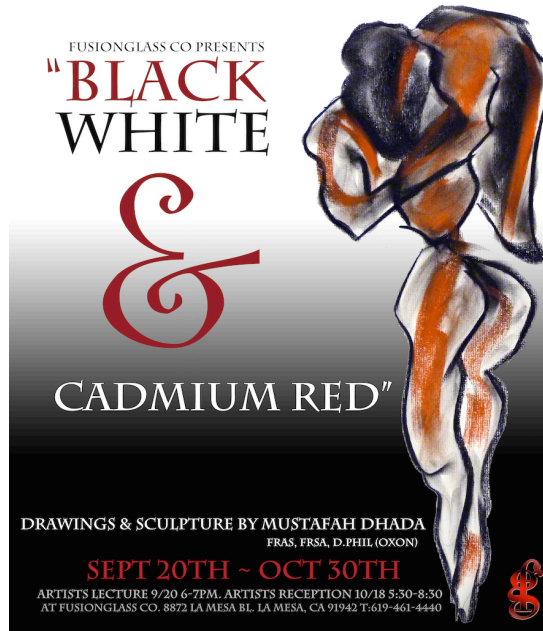
In November, **Douglas Dodd** presented a paper, "Government Camps and Public Buildings: The Southern San Joaquin Valley's New Deal Landscape," at the Cultural Legacy of *The Grapes of Wrath* conference at CSUB.

## SEMINAR IN CONSTITUTION HISTORY

This past summer **Professor Alicia Rodriquez** was among approximately fifteen scholars representing the disciplines of history, law, and political science from all regions of the United States who were selected to participate in the Jordan Saunders Seminar in Constitutional History, "Embedded Histories in Constitutional Argument," sponsored by the Stanford University Constitutional Law Center and the Institute for Constitutional History. The seminar, which was held July 13-18 at Stanford University's Law School, allowed participants to examine and discuss embedded histories in court cases and in several areas of constitutional law including civil rights, Second Amendment rights, police powers, and church-state separation. Led by Robert Gordon, Professor of Law at Stanford University, session leaders included several prominent scholars who have contributed to the body of literature on the intersection of law and history. Professor Rodriquez found the experience "eye opening" and "enlightening" and has been excited about integrating knowledge gained from the seminar into her courses, especially into her new course, "Citizenship and Civil Rights in the United States," which she plans to offer after CSUB converts to semesters.

### Upcoming Course from pg. 3

methods of preservation, digitization of materials, transcription, and public presentation of the finished product. This course will appeal to students interested in public history and/or archives as well as to those who are curious about the oral history process. Students taking this course will gain practical experience in project management and understanding of the issues related to documenting community history faced by public historians currently in the workforce. (Credit/No Credit Grading)



*American Exodus: The Dust Bowl Migration and Okie Culture in California*  
by James N. Gregory, New York: Oxford University Press, 1989, 338 pp.

**A REVIEW BY DAVID SLOCUMB**  
for HIST 490 (F'14)

*American Exodus* represents a huge step forward in the historiography of internal migrations within America. In this book, James N. Gregory sets out to accomplish two major goals: first, he challenges those common perceptions of the Dust Bowl migrants set forth by popular media such as *The Grapes of Wrath* and Dorothea Lange's *Migrant Mother* portrait; second, he explores the cultural roots of the migrants and discusses their impact, subtle or explicit, on California culture.

The first part of his work focuses on analyzing the wave of migration that occurred during the years between the World Wars. Common knowledge dictated that most newcomers to California during that era were Okies or other Dust Bowl migrants. They were perceived as poor, dirty, and uneducated farmers fleeing the dust storms. Pulling from census and Department of Agriculture records, Gregory challenges this notion by illustrating that, for example, one out of six migrants was "white collar" or "professional" (17). Further, thirty-nine percent of male migrants were from "blue collar" or service industries, though Gregory is careful to note that these men may have been farm laborers at one time or another. Despite the rather dry nature of statistical analysis, Gregory maintains the reader's interest by emphasizing his points with personal quotations from individuals involved in the migration and through illustrative charts. He follows this with an argument that, by 1940, most migrants had successfully integrated themselves into the California economy and had achieved their goal of a better life despite initial opposition from locals.

The second part of Gregory's work focuses on the cultural impact those migrants had on California. The subject matter in the second part of his book is tightly organized around four key themes, the most important of which is the discussion of "Plain Folk Americanism," which affects the following chapters, which discuss labor, religion, and music. "Plain Folk Americanism," consisting of religiosity, self-reliance, general toughness, and a focus on egalitarianism, is especially salient to the current conservative nature of the Valley's culture.

These points and how he makes them are indicative of Gregory's strength as a writer. He takes the long view, places these migrants in a wider social and historical context, and illustrates his points effectively using a wide variety of sources. Pulling from government documents, oral interviews, census records, camp newspapers, et cetera, Gregory weaves together disparate elements into a cohesive, engaging, and convincing narrative. Because he was so successful in contextualizing the migrations and migrants, he has made his work accessible to a common audience without forfeiting scholarly rigor in the process. Balance, between dry facts and interesting anecdotes, between scholarly rigor and accessibility, and between his obvious passion for the subject and his obligation to scholarly objectivity, characterize this project. In addition, his organization of the book thematically could hardly be improved. As such, it could serve as a model for social scientists and social historians who are planning works of the same nature. Beyond that, the tight organization, abundance of notes, and the well-developed appendices and index make the book an invaluable tool for students researching a variety of subjects within the purview of the book. James N. Gregory's book contributes greatly to the historical and sociological study of California, successfully challenges long-held beliefs, and compels readers to examine their own cultural heritage. This book deserves the broadest of audiences; California high school literature teachers would be well advised to integrate Gregory's arguments into their lectures when they inevitably assign *The Grapes of Wrath*.

## PHI ALPHA THETA NEWS

by Miriam Raub Vivian, Advisor

**Membership:** Now that fall quarter is a fading memory, it is a good time to consider applying for Phi Alpha Theta, if you are not already a member. If you have a 3.1 GPA or higher in all your CSUB history courses (minimum four)—and an overall GPA of at least a 3.0—then you qualify. (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](http://www.csub.edu/history)). If you'd like to apply, please fill out a red application form in the rack right outside my office (Faculty Towers 304A.) A lifetime membership is \$40—worth the price when you consider that it can help distinguish your résumé. It also qualifies you to participate in our chapter's annual paper competition AND the annual PAT regional student paper conference, held each spring at a university in Southern California.

**Annual Phi Alpha Theta Paper Competition and Wonderly Awards:** In January 2015, faculty will submit strong student papers to compete in our department's annual paper competition. Thanks to the ongoing financial support of alumnus Peter Wonderly, the Wonderly Awards provide cash prizes to students who have written winning papers. These awards will be announced sometime in February.

**Annual Phi Alpha Theta Regional Student Paper Conference:** PLAN NOW to join me at the regional conference at Point Loma on **Saturday, April 11, 2015**. The Regional conference is a GREAT experience in a very supportive environment, especially for graduate students and undergraduates considering graduate school, but ANY PAT member with a strong research paper is encouraged to participate. I will email all PAT members with information about the Regional, once I have it. If you decide to participate, PLEASE let me know!

**PAT Board of Officers, 2014-5:** If you have any questions about Phi Alpha Theta, contact me or ask a member of the board of officers for 2012-13: **President:** Kim Kartinen; **Vice-President:** Mackenzie Hooper; **Secretary:** Valeria Garcia-Otero; **Treasurer:** Richard Uribe; **Historian:** Mariel Heiss; and **Paper Award:** Peter Wonderly.

### **Cherny cont. from pg. 1**

confrontations dominated the headlines of the Depression era and formed a major thematic backdrop for John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Prof. Cherny discussed the role of the Communist Party and anti-communist organizations in agricultural labor organizing, and how both sides reacted to the publication of Steinbeck's novel.



*The Other California: The Great Central Valley in Life and Letters*  
by Gerald Haslam  
Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1994  
220 pp.

## CALIFORNIA AFTER THE 1930S OKIE MIGRATION

a review by Elias Medina  
for History 490 (F'14)

It is truly remarkable that two disciplines in the humanities, English and History, are brought together to address a message of cultural identity. Gerald Haslam's *The Other California: The Great Central Valley in Life and Letters* is a collection of articles that places the personal life of the author in historical context with the social climate of California's Central Valley. Haslam is a native of California. He was born in Bakersfield; he was raised in Oildale, and he passionately uses his rhetorical skills to celebrate the Valley's rich heritage and shed light on contemporary problems that deserve attention. Haslam's observations of this region in California provide a humanistic point of view on the aftermath of the 1930s Okie migration and the role that minorities and the working class have in shaping their society.

For someone who is steeped in English and journalism, Haslam brilliantly integrates historical material into his essays. He illustrates the relevancy between California's past and its present social climate. Perhaps the most intriguing example of this is his article "*The Grapes of Wrath: A Book that Stretched My Soul.*" Haslam not only writes about his experience as a child when he read Steinbeck's novel for the first time, but he also provides a discussion of the book's banning in Kern County. Much of this information is consistent with the work of Rick Wartzman's *Obscene in the Extreme: the Burning and Banning of John Steinbeck's the Grapes of Wrath.*

It may surprise readers that even after the official banning of the book, Haslam recalls that he needed written permission from his parents to obtain a copy of the book, which was kept in the "dirty section" of an Oildale library. This is a concrete example of how, up to this day, Steinbeck's novel is still controversial. In the article "Bronzing the Valley," Haslam discusses in historical terms the significance of California's Spanish and Mexican heritage after he heard one of his old neighbors express discontent toward California's large Mexican population. He provides a brief narrative about the earliest Spanish explorers, such as Captain Pedro Fages, who first sighted the Valley but never settled it. For this reason, he argues that "the contemporary political model of Hispanics being a colonized people doesn't work well in the Valley, ... and the so-called [Hispanic] minority is itself becoming more Californian than Mexican" (159).

In the article titled "Oildale," Haslam illustrates his hometown by making references to its history. For example, as he provides physical descriptions of a neighborhood called Riverview, he mentions that the place was given its name because the Kern River once flowed at a visible range before a dam was built east of Bakersfield. He also mentions that Okie migrants once built poorly constructed houses in the same area and that a WPA stamp from 1941 was still visible on the sidewalk in front of his parents' old house. Through his use of historical references, Haslam demonstrates how the past still looms around the present

in ways that perhaps many people in the Central Valley cannot perceive or simply do not appreciate.

To Haslam, the Central Valley is "the heartland of the Golden State, the terrain of our own hearts ... the other California" (2). Although he provides fascinating descriptions of the region where he was born and raised, he also discusses some of the negative features in this area that are not looked upon with pride. For example, in the article "Oil Town Rumble: The Young Men of Taft," Haslam narrates a hate crime that took place in 1975. Thirteen African-American high school athletes were run out of town by a racist mob. Haslam theorizes that towns such as Oildale, Coalinga, and Avenal had a large labor force in the oilfields, a job that was perceived to be white men's work. Thus, cities such as these had little contact with nonwhites and little toleration for them as well. Some people in Taft even reported having seen "No colored allowed" signs posted in certain places. Haslam also addresses issues with agriculture. Although the Central valley provides a significant percentage of food for the entire nation, and the world for that matter, Haslam expresses concern for the long-term effects of intense agriculture on the environment. The San Joaquin Valley, for example, has changed dramatically, for he explains that "its rivers [are] dammed, its lakes [are] drained, and their beds [are] tilled by farmers" (7). If not directly, Haslam is at least indirectly suggesting that there are some aspects of the Central Valley that need change.

Haslam also shares aspects of his personal life with his readers, especially in the articles "Father Comes Home" and "The Home." In these two sections of the book, Haslam narrates the final years of his parents' lives. In "Father Comes Home," he writes about how he and his family took care of his father instead of sending him away to a retirement home. In "The Home," he writes about how he struggled, but ultimately failed, to personally take care of his mother, something he deeply regretted. In these two articles, Haslam interestingly provides hints about how certain elements of California's history and culture influenced his family's values. For example, he remembers how his father (when he was young) deeply understood the values of hard work because he endured the Great Depression as a Southwestern migrant.

There may not be any photographs or visual aids that accompany Haslam's text, but his style of writing completely makes up for that. As a journalist, Haslam uses concrete descriptions of his observations and experiences. For readers accustomed to writing styles that treat subject matter seriously and objectively, this book may be a surprise. Haslam seems to write about how he subjectively feels about objective, historical, and social realities. What makes this book remarkable is that it can be used for academic purposes as well as for personal enjoyment.

### WINTER 2015

Hist 204	Western Civilization II	Harrie, Jeanne	MWF	B3	8:30-9:55A
Hist 210(1)	World History I	Schmoll, Brett	TTh	BT2	7:45-9:50A
Hist 210(2)	World History I	Vivian Miriam	TTh	FT2	3:00-5:05P
Hist 211	World History II	Dhada, Mustafah	MW	B2	7:45-9:50A
Hist 212	World History III	Schmoll, Brett	TTh	DT2	12:45-2:50P
Hist 231(1)	Sur of US Hist to 1877	McKeehan, Michael	MW	B2	7:45-9:50A
Hist 231(2)	Sur of US Hist to 1877	Freeland, Katy	MWF	B3	10:00-11:25A
Hist 231(3)	Sur of US Hist to 1877	Freeland, Katy	TTh	CT2	10:00-12:05P
Hist 231(4)	Sur of US Hist to 1877	McKeehan, Michael	MW	F2	3:00-5:05P
Hist 232(1)	Sur of US Hist since 1865	Rodriquez, Alicia	MW	C2	10:00-12:05P
Hist 232(2)	Sur of US Hist since 1865	Parra, Peter	MW	G2	5:15-7:20P
Hist 232(3)	Sur of US Hist since 1865	Raub, Corrine	MW	B2	7:45-9:50A
Hist 300	Historical Writing	Orliski, Connie	TTh	DT2	12:45-2:50P
Hist 374	California History	Dodd, Doug	TTh	BT2	7:45-9:50A
Hist 402	The Reformation	Harrie, Jeanne	TTh	CT2	10:00-12:05A
Hist 404 <b>ITV/AV</b>	Pagans & Christians in the Roman World	Vivian, Miriam	MW	F2	3:00-5:05P
Hist 414	Ottoman Empire World History	Dhada, Mustafah	MW	D2	12:45-2:50P
Hist 426	China Since 1800	Orliski, Connie	TTh	GT2	5:15-7:70P
Hist 467	American Indian History	Dodd, Doug	TTh	FT2	3:00-5:05P
Hist 497	Cooperative Education	Staff	TBA		
Hist 499	Individual Study	Staff	TBA		
Hist 555	Reading Seminar in American History	Rodriquez, Alicia	T	G1	5:15-9:35P
Hist 697	Master's Thesis	Staff	TBA		
Hist 698	Comprehensive Exam-MA	Staff	TBA		
Hist 699	Individual Study	Staff	TBA		
GST 200	Meet the World	Murphy, Cliona	T	DT2	12:45-2:50P

### SPRING 2015

Hist 206	Western Civilization III	Schmoll, Brett	MWF	C3	10:00-11:25A
Hist 210(1)	World History	Vivian, Miriam	MW	D2	12:45-2:50P
Hist 210(2)	World History	Orliski, Connie	TTh	GT2	5:15-7:20P
Hist 231(1)	Sur of US Hist to 1877	Dodd, Doug	MW	B2	7:45-9:50A
Hist 231(2)	Sur of US Hist to 1877	Schmoll, Brett	TTh	FT2	3:00-5:05P
Hist 231(3)	Sur of US Hist to 1877	<b>STAFF</b>	MWF	B3	8:30-9:55A
Hist 232(1)	Sur of US Hist since 1865	Rodriquez, Alicia	TTh	DT2	12:45-2:50P
Hist 232(2)	Sur of US Hist since 1865	Schmoll, Brett	TTh	CT2	10:00-12:05P
Hist 300	Historical Writing	Vivian, Miriam	MW	G2	5:15-7:20P
Hist 309	Europe Since 1914	<b>STAFF</b>	MW	D2	12:45-2:50P
Hist 327	African Colonial Independence	Dhada, Mustafah	MW	C2	10:00-12:05P
Hist 358 <b>ITV/AV</b>	America's Rise to Globalism, 1917-1964	Dodd, Doug	MW	D2	12:45-2:50P
Hist 423	Modern Japan	Orliski, Connie	TTh	DT2	12:45-2:50P
Hist 468	Mexican-American History	Rodriquez, Alicia	TTh	BT2	7:45-9:50A
Hist 490	Senior Seminar	Dhada, Mustafah	MW	F2	3:00-5:05P
Hist 497	Cooperative Education	Staff	TBA		
Hist 499	Individual Study	Staff	TBA		
Hist 525	Reading Seminar in European History	Dhada, Mustafah	T	G1	5:15-9:35P
Hist 697	Master's Thesis	Staff	TBA		
Hist 698	Comprehensive Exam-MA	Staff	TBA		
Hist 699	Individual Study	Staff	TBA		
GST 200	Meet the World	Murphy, Cliona	T	DT2	12:45-2:50P

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**History Department 130**  
**California State University, Bakersfield**  
 9001 Stockdale Highway  
 Bakersfield, California 93311-1099