Taking Italy by Storm!
CSU Fullerton Students Study Abroad over the Summer

CSU Fullerton students visiting San Gimignano in the heart of Tuscany, June 2013.

Studying abroad in Italy opened my eyes. I feel somewhat ashamed that in certain aspects, I was and am an ignorant American. We are so isolated in our American frame of mind and Southern California mode of living that we do not realize the true depth of the human experience. My experiences in Italy showed me how much there is to learn, not only about Italy and its people, but also of the world. Americans are not the only ones that struggle, and coming to Italy and seeing parts of Europe allowed me to put that struggle into perspective.

The United States emphasizes that it is a young country with so much left to learn from the cradles of western civilization. Indoctrinated by the American education system, we have a sense of inadequacy. The truth is, most European nations did not unify until the 1860s. Even now, Italy is an uneasy marriage between the prosperous north and the struggling south. Since unification, Italy has sorted out regional differences including variations in languages, traditions, and reconciling previous regional conflicts. Prior to unification, Italy experienced hundreds of years of civil turmoil causing hundreds of years of emotional scarring between neighboring regions. It may seem crass, but the United States made off easy with one big civil war.

Speaking and interacting with native Italians, showed me the hardships Italian people face. The unemployment rate in Italy is 12.5%, but much higher for those 20-30 years old. Monthly income with a master’s degree is only 1,200 Euro as taxes consume 51% of their wages. Modest one-bedroom apartments (in some places) rent for 1000 per month, leaving only 200 for expenses. It seems like a losing battle for young Italians. Perhaps that is why so many live with their parents even throughout their thirties.

Continued on page 3...
Over the summer months, I kept busy by giving my testimony and uncovering old paintings from a local mission.

It was last August when I testified on behalf of the Nikkei for Civil Rights/Redress (NCRR) at the Huntington Beach Planning Commission hearings. The hearings were successful in appealing Rainbow Disposal’s efforts to demolish the Wintersburg Village on the corner of Warner Avenue and Nichols Lane. I spoke about the early Japanese immigrants building a community until they left for the Poston Relocation Center in Arizona. Next, I attended a lecture at the Mission San Gabriel. The first presenter was Dr. Natale Zappia, from Whittier College, who discussed early trade routes California Indians travelled and the commodities utilized by the many tribes. The second lecturer, Yve Chavez, a Gabriele-no and UCLA doctoral student, discussed the paintings located in the San Gabriel Mission. In her lecture, she mentioned that there were around ten to twelve paintings missing or unaccounted for some time. The missing paintings were in storage under the church deteriorating. The painting I am standing next to is the “Hordes of Hell” and the mission friars used it as a tool to help convert Indians to Christianity.

By: Tom Fujii
Regardless, it is fascinating to see how resilient the Italian people are. Even with backbreaking taxation and difficult national and personal obstacles, Italians are still proud to be Italian. They have every right to be. Whether or not Italy is currently in good financial standing, this does not overshadow the tremendous accomplishments of the Italian people, especially during the Renaissance. The masterpieces of art that I saw, such as the collection in the Vatican, were entirely overwhelming. There was just such an abundance of beauty. Living so close to the dome of Santa Maria del Fiore and knowing the history behind its construction, left me in awe of their ingenuity. I lived with buildings and explored buildings hundreds of years old. Call it being a nostalgic history major, but that was amazing. Great people passed through those buildings. I got to be there and walk in their footsteps.

Italy was a life-affirming experience. Americans constantly complain about our hard luck, but the truth is, we have it easy. My perspective changed extensively. Young Americans should go abroad to a place with a language barrier and get out of their comfort zone. That way they can learn to adapt and grow. They can experience the frustration of having so little while everything cost so much. Maybe in that small way, we can learn to stop taking the abundance we have for granted. Maybe in that small way, we can curb the exceptionalism prevalent in American thought and the entitled demeanor that has swept American youth like a virus. In that way, we can truly see how others live, what others need and learn how to work together and facilitate changes. Maybe, if we are lucky, in that small way, we can be humbled.

By: Kaye Maigue

Hansen Lecture: Harlan County, Kentucky: Thirty Years of Field Work

On October 8th the Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) held its 2013 Hansen Lecture, featuring Alessandro Portelli, professor of American Literature at the Sapienza University in Rome, Italy. Professor Portelli presented, "Harlan County, Kentucky: Thirty Years of Field Work," and spoke to the value and challenges faced by historians collecting oral histories. He is the author of numerous works including: They Say in Harlan County: An Oral History, The Order has Been Carried Out: History, Memory and Meaning of a Nazi Massacre in Rome, and Battle of Valle Giulia: Oral History and the Art of Dialogue.

The Hansen Lecture series was created by the Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) in honor of Arthur A. Hansen, CSUF professor emeritus of history and retired center director.
Publications, Presentations, Awards, and Generally Exciting News

Faculty and staff news:
- Dr. William W. Haddad, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, has kindly agreed to serve as Deputy Chair of the History Department for the 2013/2014 academic year.
- Dr. Steve Jobby has resigned from the department and moved back to Canada. We wish him well and thank him for all his hard work on behalf of students and faculty colleagues. We will be sure to come and see him to check on his snow-fort building skills.
- The first episodes of the History Channel’s (H2) “Big History” series, featuring Dr. Jonathan Markley from CSUF’s Department of History, are now available online: https://www.history.com/shows/big_history.
- Mr. Ben Perez, a former staff member in our office, has taken a position in the HSS Dean’s Office. We wish him well and will be sure to come see him in his new “digs” on the second floor of the Humanities building.
- Yan Jie, a visiting scholar from China, will join the department to conduct research next year.

Awards:
- Dr. Allison Varzally has received an Intramural Research Award for her project titled “Children of Atonement: Vietnamese Adoptees, Wartime Memories and the Politics of Interracial families.”
- History M.A. student Jennifer Keil has received an EPOCHS Graduate Student Research Fund Award.

New publications:

Past calendar:
- The “New Graduate Student Orientation” on August 22, 2013, was an exciting, very well attended event to welcome our newest class of M.A. students. In attendance were, in addition to the students, two of our History office staff members and six professors.
- The 2013 Hansen Lecture, featuring Professor Alessandro Portelli from the Sapienza University in Rome, Italy, was a great success and extremely well attended.
- Dr. Natalie Fouskis, Dr. Cora Granata, and Dr. Allison Varzally, together with current and former History students Kira Gentry, Jennifer Keil, Gloria Lopez, Janet Tanner, and Martin Ugelstad, presented at the National Oral History Association conference in Oklahoma City in October 2013.
- Dr. Robert McLain presented a lecture on World War II on November 12, 2013, at the Fullerton Public Library.
- The韦尔巴瑟恩 screening the film “Invisible Children” on Thursday, November 14, 2013. The goal of this film forum was to encourage students to write reviews of the film for submission to the 2014 issues of the韦尔巴瑟恩.

Phi Alpha Theta:
- For the 32nd year in a row, CSUF’s Theta-Phi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society) has received the organization’s nationwide “Best Chapter Award,” the Nels A. Cleven Award, awarded to “best chapters” who have won this award five or more times, in division VI (in which the nation’s largest universities by enrollment compete).
- Nine Phi Alpha Theta students will present papers at the society’s 2014 national biennial conference in Albuquerque in January 2014: Nicole Arnold, Timothy Barrette, Jason Collar, Matthew Hendricks, Lindsay Huysement, Gregory Leighton, Eric Ortega, Madison Pavia-Castro, and Matt Snider.

Preserving the Oral Histories of Southern California

The Los Angeles Times (Monday, September 16, 2013, page A1) featured an article on a woman interviewed by a student from my fall 2012 “From Hitler’s Europe to the Golden State” oral history project and class. The article focused on Ilse Byrnes, a Swiss-born 86 year old woman who has spearheaded the preservationist movement in San Juan Capistrano. The article title is “Past is always present for longtime preservationist.” Her oral history is now preserved at CSUF’s Center for Oral and Public History (COPH). The archival citation of the interview is OH 5084, interviewed by student Heather Glasgow on November 10, 2012. So, we got her story before the LA Times. Having grown up in Basel, where the town center dates back to the medieval period, Ilse Byrnes now fights to save places that tell California’s story. The article can be found at: http://fw.to/I4mxUNm

By: Dr. Cora Granata
THE CSUF HISTORY DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

Faculty-led tour of the Getty Villa
by Dr. Stephen O’Connor
April 19, 2014 at 11 am

The History Department is excited to invite alumni and other friends of the department to join Dr. Stephen O’Connor on a faculty-led tour of the Getty Villa on April 19, 2014. Dr. O’Connor will guide alumni and friends through the Greek exhibits at the Villa and discuss daily life in peace and war in ancient Greece. Please contact Dr. O’Connor (at soconnor@fullerton.edu) for more information and to sign up for the tour (space is limited!)

17985 E Pacific Coast Hwy, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Upcoming Events: Save the Date

Go For Broke National Education Center and the Japanese American National Museum

On December 7, 2013 @ 2pm, Veterans of the Military Intelligence Service will discuss their role in the rebuilding of Japan after the end of World War II. Author & retired professor Edwin Nakasone will moderate the discussion with fellow veterans Bruce Kaji and Hitoshi Sameshima.


[A group of Military Intelligence Service students taken during class.]

Presented in conjunction with the Eric Saul exhibition: Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers Fighting on Two Fronts (November 12, 2013-March 2, 2014) At the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo Student Admission, $5.00 with identification Reservations are highly recommended, email rsvp@janm.org or call 213.625.0414

If you have any additional questions please contact:
Stacey Ellison
Exhibits and Programming
Go For Broke National Education Center
stacey@goforbroke.org

Volker Janssen
CSUF Department of History

“In Flesh and Blood: Questions about Health, Discipline, and Bio-Technology in postwar America”

This talk explores the history of the biomedical diagnostics industry in California and the global market in healthcare technologies. Drawing on advances in the life sciences as well as the prolific technological innovations of World War II and the postwar aerospace industry, California entrepreneurs and engineers developed diagnostics systems that came to be the foundation for the contemporary healthcare industry.

Free and open to the public
Parking information: http://parking.fullerton.edu/
Sponsored by the Department of Liberal Studies and the Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Medicine.

Thursday December 12, 2013
5:30 PM Humanities 110
The History Department needs you to contribute to the Department Newsletter. Send pictures and short items (up to 200 words) that would be of interest to the departmental community to: lsargeant@fullerton.edu.

The History Department’s next annual banquet will be held on: 
**Friday, April 25, 2014**
at the Orange County Mining Company

**Have an item for the February newsletter? Please contact Dr. Lynn Sargeant, AT LSARGEANT@FULLERTON.EDU**