Dr. Mougo Nyaggah, an Associate Professor of African History and an almost 40-year faculty member at CSUF, passed away on Friday, March 29, 2013, at St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton, where he had been treated after suffering cardiac arrest. Since 2007, Mougo had served as President of CSU Fullerton’s chapter of the California Faculty Association and as a Senator of CSU Fullerton’s Academic Senate. Mougo was 75.

Born in Kenya, Mougo attended school in Nyeri (Kenya) and later immigrated to the United States of America, where he obtained a B.A. (1964; Major: History; Minors: Philosophy and Classics) from St. Mary’s College in Moraga, California, as well as an M.A. (1967; Major: History; Minor: Anthropology) and a Ph.D. (1974; Major: African History; Minors: British History and Anthropology) from the University of California at Berkeley. His doctoral dissertation at Berkeley was titled, “Social Origins of the Asante Traditional Administrators, 1700-1900.”

Prior to his arrival at CSU Fullerton in 1973, Mougo had already taught History and Anthropology at St. Mary’s College; History at the College of the Holy Names in Oakland; African American History at the College of San Mateo; Swahili at UC Berkeley and the City College of San Francisco; as well as History, English, and Social Sciences at the Intermediate School of Kianyaga (Kenya).


Mougo’s teaching philosophy reflected his personal integrity, deep humanity, and commitment to students: “Teach them to think and learn critically. Teach them the material as if it has never been taught before. And teach them by being fair to all.”

Well into the last few years, Mougo’s archival research and field work in Africa’s colonial and modern period took him to archives and libraries in Great Britain, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and the United States. His publications appeared in the Journal of the Pan African Study Society, the Journal of African Economic History, the Journal of African Studies, and other scholarly venues.

Mougo will be deeply missed by the CSUF History Department’s faculty, students, alumni, and friends, as well as by the broader university community. He will always be remembered for his warmth and the generosity of his spirit. Mougo is survived by his wife, Lynette, and by his children.
Celebrating the Class of 2013
In an earlier issue, I described my involvement as a ‘talking head’ in the production of the History Channel special “A History of the World in Two Hours”. Since that time, I’ve also appeared in another show on the same channel called “Ten Things You Didn’t Know: Caligula”. The next development in my involvement in the wonderful world of TV is the production of an entire season of Big History documentaries. The network liked the original special so much that they’ve commissioned a series of 16 half hour episodes, which will follow the broad history of a wide variety of themes, including, “the horse”, “silver”, “cold”, “the sun”, “comets and meteorites”, “weapons”, “secret codes”, and more!

The previous two times, I was only involved at the point of the interviews, but this time they’ve been asking me for ideas for each episode as they write them, and so I’ve had some input in shaping the directions the shows have taken. So far they’ve had me in for 2 lengthy sessions of interviews, with at least one more to come. It’s sometimes been a real challenge, as they appear to be using me as one of the “experts” to provide some consistency across the whole show, but this also means I’m having to field questions that are amazingly diverse. They’ve also asked me if I’d like to be involved at the back-end as a fact checker, which is a real relief as it will give me a chance to amend (or remove) anything I may have said that turns out to be really stupid! I’ve been really impressed with the people from Flight 33 Productions who are making the series, as they are serious historians in their own right, and not “Hollywood hacks” looking to bang out cheap rubbish as fast as they can. On the other hand, they only have 21 minutes (after ad breaks, credits, etc.) to try to tell some pretty huge stories, so I beg your indulgence if you get a chance to see the series which is expected to air sometime around October this year.

Internship Opportunities for History Majors

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, the oldest and largest LGBT archive in the world, is looking for interns to work on The ONE LGBT History Project, described below. This is an ongoing internship so students are welcome year round.

ONE Archives is accepting applications for student interns to help create several LGBT History panel exhibitions that will be used by non-profit organizations, corporations, universities, and high schools nationwide to teach LGBT History. The project will involve using the ONE Archives collection to research, develop and write content, pull images for the exhibitions, and also help design the exhibitions.

Past exhibitions include Responses to AIDS, Notable LGBT’s in Television, Pioneers of the LGBT Movement, and Gay Parenting, to name a few. The ideal candidate will have knowledge of and passion for LGBTQ history as well as strong writing skills. Candidate must be available for at least 10 hours a week for a minimum of a 12-week period.

This is a non-paid internship. ONE will provide course credit. Please see www.onearchives.org for more information about ONE. Applicants should send a resume, cover letter, and writing sample to Jamie Scot, Project Manager at ONE.

Coming Soon to a Theater Couch Near You:
Dr. Markley’s Continuing Adventures in Television

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Publications, Presentations, Awards, and Generally Exciting News

- Dr. Maged S. Mikhail and Dr. Ben Cawthra were recognized by the university for the high quality of their scholarly and creative work at an event held on March 27 in the Titan Student Union.
- Dr. David Freeman is the new editor of an online newsletter published monthly for the Churchill Centre. The first edition of the newsletter under his editorship is available at: http://www.winstonchurchill.org/support/the-churchill-centre/publications/chartwell-bulletin/2013/57-mar
- Dr. Amy Essington’s review of Sports and American Art: From Benjamin West to Andy Warhol by Allen Guttman was published in History: Reviews of New Books 41:2 (2013).
- Dr. Stephen Neufeld gave a History Department Brownbag talk entitled “Stalking the Modern Cityscape: Vermin, Sportsmen, and Rabid Beasts in Porfirian Mexico” on March 7.
- Stephen Neufeld also chaired a panel entitled “Foreign Influences on Colonial Latin America” at the annual Latin American Studies Student Association Conference at CSUF on March 22. Papers presented included: history graduate student Daniel Barbeau, “Methods of Jewish Resistance to the New Spanish Inquisition,” one by history undergraduate Michael Corcoran-Davis entitled “On the Laws of the Pirates Raiding Colonial Mexico, 1670-1720,” and lastly one by history student Weston Matthews who gave a talk on “Adventure, Plunder, and Mutiny during the Golden Age of Pirates, 1670-1720.” The conference also included an ironically skype’d keynote address on issues of immigration (Dr. Javier Urbano of Mexico City was unable to get a visa in time to travel), and performances by Ballet Folklórico dance troupe and the Capeorda Mandinguheiro group.
- Ms. Johanna Peterson (History M.A., 2011) has been admitted to the Ph.D. program in Middle Eastern History at UCSD.
- Dr. Lynn Sargeant presented “Little Shack on the Prairie: Rethinking the History of Adult Education from a Comparative Perspective” at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in San Francisco.
- Dr. David Freeman provided analysis and commentary for an HSS Week screening of The Iron Lady, a film about Margaret Thatcher’s life and political career. Dr. Freeman was the editor of the biography by Joseph Campbell, on which the film was based.
- Dr. Gordon M. Bakken has been awarded the title of emeritus professor of history in recognition of his 43 years of service to CSUF. Over the course of his career, Dr. Bakken has served as adviser to the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, authored more than twenty books, served as vice president and director of the California Supreme Court Historical Society and as national president of Phi Alpha Theta, and been honored with the Western History Association 2009 Award of Merit and honorary life membership.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH THAT HISTORY DEGREE: JUST ABOUT ANYTHING YOU WANT

As a graduate from CSUF with a Bachelor’s degree in History and a second Bachelor’s degree in Ethnic Studies with an emphasis in Chicano studies I can ask the question: why a degree in History? The answer is simple: why not? I have found that the research, paper writing, and critical thinking skills that were required to obtain these degrees have more than prepared me for graduate school. As a Masters Candidate in Education at the University of Redlands, I find that my colleagues have never prepared a thirty-page paper and have no idea where to begin. The History department at CSUF prepared me for many of life’s challenges. With the knowledge I have obtained regarding History, I can intellectually take any topic and evaluate it, compare and contrast the issue, and present an analysis of what is happening and what will happen with proposed outcomes. I can systematically create a proposal for change and improvement. I can also look at the issues confronting our world today and see how we continue on some of our current paths we are destined to recreate many of the disasters of the past.

So how does this affect your decision to obtain a degree in History? Whatever your final career path you will find that all of the aforementioned skills are required to become an intellectual thinker, productive and beneficial asset to any company whether you work for a someone or you are self-employed. My fellow Titans, remember that in the real world we really are revered as assets because we have been well prepared by our professors. With each new professor, colleague, or associate I encounter I find that they are very impressed with my knowledge base, my attention to detail and my systematic approach to finding solutions, so no matter where you intend to go in life know that History prepares you with skills not found in other disciplines. At one time I never believed that college was a possibility for me. Now I cannot stop thinking of the next step in my education. As I complete my Master’s program this year, I am looking forward to the possibility of a Doctorate degree in Educational Social Justice. Your future begins with History, and your final destination is in your hands. I wish you all well and may all your dreams come true, I know mine are.

Marcelino Sifuentes,
CSUF Class of 2011

Working at Greenlight Financial as a loan agent, I was able to ascend to a Sales Training position within 6 months. It helped a lot that I had already earned my BA in History because it demonstrated to the upper management that even though I am 22, I am motivated, intelligent, and capable of handling complex tasks.

Alexandre Olivera
The European Studies Society took part of the Humanities and Social Sciences Week's theme of "Exploring Human Identities." Students, faculty, and community members gathered before a forum of panelists on Thursday April 18 at the TSU Pavilion B. The panel included Dr. Burgtorf, Dr. Loewy, Dr. Scheinberg, and Dr. Granata who served as the moderator. They presented diverse perspectives of Germany's past, present, and future perceptions. The panel touched on a wide variety of topics including personal German memories, national history, xenophobia, sports culture, European debt crisis, and ideological beliefs. Students engaged in the discussion by asking relevant questions to current misconceptions about Germans. The guests enjoyed the Döner Kebab and German pastries. This forum was highly attended and well-received.

European Studies Society Explores Human Identities

Exciting Endeavors, Far Beyond the Classroom

The work of CSUF Historians continues well beyond the classroom. Recently, the Center for Oral and Public History hosted a major conference on Iraq After Ten Years of War: Its Causes and Consequences. This exciting conference, which was organized by Dr. William W. Haddad, Distinguished Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences at CSUF, featured scholars from around the world, who presented their research on a wide range of topics. CSUF faculty who participated included Dr. Jochen Burgtorf, Chair of the History Department at CSUF, Ms. Connie Decapite, Director of Fullerton International Resources for Schools and Teachers, Dr. Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi, Assistant Professor in the Department of History at CSUF, and Dr. Zakyi Ibrahim, Associate Professor at CSUF in the Department of Comparative Religion.

HISTORY on the MOVE

The continuing work of Emeritus Professor James Woodward takes him much farther afield, if only in theory. As a historian and a theoretical physicist, Dr. Woodward has spent decades both studying the history of science and exploring the theoretical potential of gravitation in regard to space travel. He recently published a collection of his articles. His book, Making Starships and Stargates: The Science of Interstellar Transport and Absurdly Benign Wormholes (Springer, 2012), explains the "physics and technologies needed for interstellar space travel."
Hard Times in the OC: History Students Document the Great Recession

CSU Fullerton History students are creating a new exhibition in conjunction with the Oakland Museum of California’s What’s Happening, California? exhibition program. The Fullerton project, titled Hard Times in the OC: Voices from the Great Recession, is a contemporary history exhibition that uses oral history interviews, artifacts, and photographs to examine how southern Californians weathered the recession that peaked in 2008. Students in Dr. Benjamin Cawthra’s Introduction to Public History class conducted preliminary research and interviews in Fall 2012, while Practicum in Public History class completed artifact research, wrote text labels, and made final object and story decisions this spring.

The foray into contemporary history aligns with the Oakland Museum of California’s emphasis on documenting history sooner rather than later. “We really believe that collecting what's happening right now is going to be vital for the future,” says Suzanne Fischer, curator of contemporary history and trends at the museum. “We’re delighted with the way the Fullerton students tackled a difficult issue that has affected so many people so recently.” Fischer coordinates the What’s Happening, California? program, in which students at CSU campuses create exhibitions based on their home regions. It is funded in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Previous exhibitions featured the work of CSU East Bay and Sacramento State students.

Hard Times in the OC will open in Oakland in late April, and the Practicum class plans to visit the museum soon after to see how the institution works and to view the results of their efforts. “I’m excited that our work will be seen by people from all over,” says Kamala Bennett, a graduate student in history and a member of both the Fall and Spring classes. “This is something real that deals with an important subject in our lives.”

Graduate student Keith Okamoto, who also took both classes, wanted to question the way Orange County in particular is portrayed in the media. “This is a real place, and people who lived here during the Recession have suffered greatly,” he says. “The stories our narrators tell are very powerful and even inspiring.” In addition to roughly a dozen oral history interviews, the final exhibition will feature unemployment documents, teaching supplies put in storage after a layoff, short sale real estate signs, and protest materials created during student activism over tuition increases, among other items. One story documents the student food bank services at Fullerton College. The exhibition also remembers the wrenching story of Kelly Thomas, the homeless Fullerton man who died after a brutal beating by the police in 2011 and whose death led to calls for community action on homelessness and mental illness.

“This is our history,” says Dawn Cook, a graduate student who researched the food bank story. “These stories get lost if we don’t get them now. We owe that to future generations who want to understand what happened here.”

The full interviews are being housed permanently at the Center for Oral and Public History. Students hope to create an event focusing on student activism to mark the five-year anniversary of the recession next year.

Dr. Ben Cawthra
FOOTNOTES

The Newsletter of the CSUF Department of History

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We Mourn the Passing of a Dear Friend:
Larry Newberry

The Department of History was saddened to learn that Larry Newberry passed away on April 4, 2013. Larry, along with his wife, Vivien Ide, have been generous supporters of the Carmen Delphine Bayati Scholarship for many years. The scholarship, named in memory of Vivien’s twin sister, is awarded annually to students whose academic careers have been delayed or disrupted because of personal or family circumstances. These scholarships have allowed many students, who might not otherwise have been able to continue their education and achieve their professional goals, to complete their degrees.

Larry was a regular attendee at our annual banquets. He always enjoyed meeting the recipients of the Bayati Scholarship. His presence was much missed at this year’s banquet. His big smile, warm humor, and genuine kindness will always be remembered by the students, staff, and faculty of the CSUF History Department. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his dear wife, Vivien.

Calling all Alumni, Students, Faculty, and Friends of the Department!

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.