Footnotes
The Newsletter of the CSUF Department of History

MARCH 2014

The Vikings Are Coming:
Adventures in Historical Research

California State University Fullerton (CSUF) History lecturer Eric Tippeconnic spent the fall break (December and January) in Denmark in order to conduct research for a project that he hopes will become his first book. Eric began teaching at CSUF in the fall semester 2012. Eric’s project is a comparative history between the Comanche and the Vikings from Denmark. In Denmark, he studied at the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde and the National Museum in Copenhagen. The Viking ship Museum is the home to the 5 Skuldelev ships. The Skuldelev ships, purposely sunk by Danish Vikings in the 11th century at the mouth of one of the three entrances to Roskilde Fjord, provided a barrier against sea raids. The ships, excavated in 1962 and painstakingly reconstructed, provide a diverse example of the various types and sizes of Viking-age ships, including two warships, two cargo ships and a fishing vessel. The largest warship is over 30 meters long and is the longest Viking age ship found to date. This impressive warship was used to construct a replica (The Sea Stallion) that successfully sailed from Denmark to Ireland and back in recent years. The project focus is on Comanche utilization of the horse and the Danish Vikings’ use of long ships in order to achieve territorial dominance.

This project is a life-long goal of Eric’s as it is representative of his two cultures. Eric’s mother, Kirsten, was born in Copenhagen and left at the age of 18 when she married an American sailor. She grew up in Copenhagen during Nazi Germany’s occupation. Eric’s father Norman Sr. is a Comanche from Cache, Oklahoma. The Tippeconnic family gets their name from Eric’s great grandfather “Tippeconnic” who fought against the United States in the Red River War. Tippeconnic is Comanche for “Rock House.” Eric credits his cultural heritage for sparking his interest in History at a very early age. Eric is extremely grateful for to the CSUF History Department for providing him with the opportunity to teach and continue his dream.
The Centennial of World War I (1914-1918) Symposium

Beginning in 2014, historians and military history buffs everywhere will begin commemorating the centennial of the Great War, also known as World War I. CSUF kicked off its own commemorations with a symposium featuring research by three well-known scholars in the field: Dr. Nancy Fitch (CSUF), Dr. Jennifer Keene (Chapman University), and Dr. Lynn Sargeant (CSUF).

Although many casual observers think of World War I as a European war, Dr. Keene’s presentation emphasized the need to examine the global nature — and global consequences — of the war. Dr. Fitch frequently teaches a popular course on World War I, so students already knew she was an expert on the subject. Far fewer were aware of her current research which blends her passion for photography with her interest in battlefield tourism. Her presentation on the battlefields of Gallipoli, Turkey, challenged popular ideas of the history and memory of the war. Dr. Sargeant, the department’s Russian historian, focused on efforts by scholars in her field to reconsider Russia’s role in World War I and the impact the war had on the Russian Empire and its successor state, the Soviet Union. Stay tuned for further events commemorating the “War to End All Wars.”

A Date with Assessment: Valentine’s Day in the History Department

On Valentine’s Day, we all should be focusing our attention on celebrating love with that special someone by buying them chocolates, bringing them flowers, or taking them out to an expensive dinner (or at least that’s what the advertising industry seems to suggest).

This year, the faculty of the History Department celebrated Valentine’s Day with a half day Assessment Retreat to evaluate student learning in History 110A, World Civilizations to 1500.

For those not in the know, assessment can be defined as an ongoing process by which we can “verify, substantiate, authenticate, and corroborate student learning described in the goals and objectives stated for a program, curriculum, or course.” Assessment has become important in higher education both because it allows us to demonstrate to others what our students are learning, but also because it gives us a way to improve our courses to enhance student learning.

Conducting effective assessments is a challenging and time-consuming task. This fall, History faculty members conducted an assessment exercise in every section of History 110A. The responses to that exercise were collected by the department and a random sample were selected for evaluation. Although assessment isn’t anyone’s FAVORITE thing to do, we had a surprising amount of fun working together!
In honor of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, the European Studies Society (ESS) put together a discussion that explored the identities of the peoples in the Caucasus Mountains. The Caucasus has received very little historical attention in the United States, therefore, the goal of the event was to provide a better understanding of an area that is continuously struggling to establish an identity. Given the region is centered at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, ESS wanted to evaluate what it meant to be a part of Europe or Asia. Panelists representing Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Georgian perspectives discussed the important cultural and political aspects that shape the identity of those countries. Even though much of the crises in the Caucasus occurred amongst each other, the panelists came to the same conclusion that Caucasians exhibit both European and Asian traditions. All three panelists agreed to adopt a separate Eurasian identity when discussing geopolitical significance of the Caucasus. Nare Kupelian, Ph.D. student of History from UCLA, Ghalib Rustamov, Ph.D. student of Economics at Claremont, and our own graduate student Richard Upward were extremely informative and raised the bar for Dr. Walter Richmond once it was his turn to talk.

Dr. Richmond is a North Caucasus expert and professor of Russian Studies at Occidental College. An audience of 85 consisting of students, members of the Azerbaijani, Armenian, and Circassian communities, and faculty were blown away by Dr. Richmond’s expertise. Dr. Richmond began with the medieval history of the Caucasus, explaining how intricate and diverse Caucasian communities have been for much of their history. Once Dr. Richmond finished, the event went into intermission in order to provide the guests with delicious doner sandwiches and refreshing pomegranate juice. Doner and pomegranates are both very popular in the Caucasus, specifically the pomegranate, as it is a mythical fruit that is historically and culturally significant in the region.

As the guests were quietly enjoying the Caucasian cuisine, a very productive Q and A portion of the event ensued. The panelists and Dr. Richmond inspired the audience to ask important questions regarding indigenous identity under Russian occupation, the legacy of the Winter Olympics, and the very difficult question of “what does it matter if the Caucasus are European or Asian?” The panelists and Dr. Richmond exhibited great professionalism and respect as they were addressing the audience. The fact that the event went on from 6:30 to 9:00 (well over the expected time) showed how engaging the dialogue was from start to finish.

Story by Artun Ereren/Photographs by Richard Upward
CSUF at Phi Alpha Theta’s National Biennial Convention
in Albuquerque, NM, January 2014

“Phi Alpha Theta (ΦΑΘ) is an American honor society for undergraduate and graduate students and professors of history. The society has over 350,000 members, with about 9,500 new members joining each year through 860 local chapters [i.e. 860 different universities nationwide]. Phi Alpha Theta was established on March 17, 1921, at the University of Arkansas by Professor Nels Cleven. Cleven had become convinced in his time at the university that a fraternity of scholars (which would accept men and women) was important for the study of history. He invited students to a meeting to form the society (then called the “University Historical Society”) on March 14, and the society was officially recognized on the 17th. In April, the decision was made for the society to be known by the Greek letters Phi Alpha Theta.” (Source: http://phialphatheta.org/about)

The Theta-Pi chapter of Phi Alpha Theta was established on May 31, 1962, at - what was then - Orange County State College - and is now California State University, Fullerton. Among the charter members are some very well-known individuals in our campus’ history, such as Giles Brown (CSUF’s first History Department chair and founding Dean of Graduate Studies), William Langsdorf (our institutions first president), Ernie Toy (our first university librarian), and Larry De Graaf (a faculty colleague who joined the campus when it first opened its doors in 1959 and continues to be very active on and off campus). The Theta-Pi chapter of Phi Alpha Theta has won the nation’s “Best Chapter Award” countless times (in a row), and the journal of history published by its members, the Welebaethan, continues to receive the highest national recognition on an annual basis; in fact, last year we were tied for first place with the University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill.

I joined Phi Alpha Theta shortly after my arrival at CSUF and became its co-advisor, alongside Professor Gordon Bakken, over ten years ago. Our History honor students are incredibly talented and organize a wide range of activities, including workshops, field trips, and conferences, and a spectacular annual banquet. Many of our members become lifelong friends and stay in touch regularly after graduation; some come back for our annual banquet whenever they are in the area.

At the recent biennial convention of the organization, held in early January in Albuquerque, New Mexico, we had nine of our students presenting papers and several others attend to cheer them on:

- Nicole Arnold (Discovery, Fear, and Anxiety: Saint Boniface’s Mission to Germany)
- Timothy Barrette (The Ghost of Imperialism: The Hutu and Tutsi Genocides and Conflicts from 1960 to 2002)
- Jason Collar (Zoroastrianism: Origins, Beliefs and Practices)
- Matthew Hendricks (Constructing the Other, Defining the Self: Descriptions of India in Herodotus’ Histories and Ctesias’ Indika)
- Lindsay Huysentruyt (Expanding Perspectives: Gender History and Broadening the Historical Understanding of Genocide)
This year, Phi Alpha Theta’s Biennial Convention was held at the Hyatt Tamaya Resort & Spa in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Nine of us made the trip to present our research to our fellow Phi Alpha Theta peers across the United States; thus making CSUF one of the larger delegations at the conference. With a wide range of topics from Gouverneur Morris, St. Boniface, Soviet women in the Red Army, and Beer, the CSUF contingent left its mark at the Tamaya conference center.

When we were not presenting, our time was spent taking in the landscape and the various activities Albuquerque had to offer. At the hotel, we were able to walk to the Rio Grande River and also spend a considerable amount of time with the on-site horses. Other activities included a trip into downtown where we enjoyed copious amounts of food, and the better half of a day we spent in Santa Fe where we enjoyed even more food. Our time in New Mexico not only gave us time together as colleagues, but also as close friends. Whether we flew home, or spent 13 hours in a Mustang with four people, the Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention was a well-enjoyed trip!

by Madison Pavia

- Gregory Leighton (Are Legends Lies? Roncesvalles Pass, the Song of Roland, and the Myth-Making Process during the Middle Ages)
- Madison Pavia-Castro (The Use of Propaganda in the Soviet Union during World War II: Exploiting the Soviet Woman in Order to Encourage and Emasculate Male Soldiers)

I am privileged to serve as our chapter’s faculty advisor. Our students are not just very promising scholars; they are wonderful people - and great fun. Based on the election held at the recent biennial convention’s business meeting, I am also looking forward to serving the national organization of Phi Alpha Theta over the next several years as vice president (2014-2015), president (2016-2017), and chair of the advisory board (2018-2019), and thus being involved in many nationwide conversations pertaining to our discipline, its curricula, and its future prospects.

by Jochen Burgtorf

Ten Phi Alpha Theta students will present their research at the Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA) national conference in San Antonio, Texas, April 17-19, 2014. Founded in 1919, the SSSA is the oldest interdisciplinary social science association in the United States, and is composed of professionals and students in the social sciences. The SSSA regularly draws about 1,000 social scientists from across the country and the world.

The co-editors of the Welebaethan will co-chair a roundtable discussion titled, Carrying the Torch: Production of a Quality Student-History Journal, which will include: Tim Barrette, Matt Bustos, Joey Hwang, Paulette Torres, Danielle Turner, and Samantha Westen.

Gloria Lopez and Stefani Marguerite Johnson will present individual research papers.
FOOTNOTES

Spring 2014 Events

- March 18th (Tuesday)
  1:00pm to 5:00pm
  History Department Book Sale
  History Department H810 N

- April 8th (Tuesday)
  7:00pm to 8:30pm
  Writing Workshop
  Humanities Student Access Center H112

- April 12th (Saturday)
  8:00am to 1:00pm
  Welcome to Fullerton Day
  Humanities Quad

- May 1st (Thursday)
  6:00pm to 9:00pm
  Whittier Christian High School
  History Conference
  Volunteers Needed
  501 Beach Blvd - La Habra, CA

- May 3rd (Saturday)
  Time TBD (early morning)
  Hiking with Dr. Burgdorf
  Location TBD

- May 7th (Wednesday)
  11:00am to 2:00pm
  Bake Sale
  History Department Office H815

- May 7th (Wednesday)
  2:00pm to 4:00pm
  Welebaesan Symposium
  Location TBD

- May 17th (Saturday)
  History Department Commencement
  Humanities Quad

Phi Alpha Theta & History Students Association

HSS Week Events
March 10th – 14th
Tuesday March 11th
Vice Lectures: The History of Alcohol
4:30pm to 6:30pm – Humanities H128
Dr. Stephen Neufeld, Dr. David Freeman, and Graduate History Student, Eric Ortega, will be discussing the history of various aspects of alcohol.

Wednesday March 12th
How to Publish a Student Journal with The Welebaesan
4:30pm to 6:30pm – Humanities H128

Thursday March 13th
Adventures in Student Travel
4:30pm to 6:30pm – Humanities H128
Learn how to make the most of a study abroad or research trip from your peers.

The 2014 Phi Alpha Theta
Southern California Regional Conference
Saturday April 26th
Hosted by California Lutheran University
60 W Olsen Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805) 492-2411

Submission Deadline
Thursday March 15th
Paper Length Required: 10 pages or less
12 point font - double spaced
Questions? Please contact Eric Ortega at: EricOrtega722@gmail.com

Down in New Orleans! Celebrating Black History Month
Pollak Library South, PLS-360
February 26, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day
Residence of Sean Washburn, address TBA via e-mail.
Monday, March 17, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Speak Out for Public Education! Students and Faculty on California's Education Crisis
CSUF Quad in front of Humanities.
March 20, 2014, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

César Chávez:
Remembering a Movement to Understand a Future
Pollak Library South, PLS-360
March 26, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

CPHA & QSA Present: Bridegroom:
Exploring the LGBT Identity
Pollak Library South, PLS-360
April 9, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

CPHA Officer Elections for 2014/2015
Pollak Library South, PLS-360
April 30, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

CPHA End of Spring & Commencement Celebration
May 9, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Please contact us at if you have any questions or comments:
cphac@calstatefullerton.edu
**Upcoming Events: Save the Date**

**Torah Scrolls**

**Date:** 2014 (installation begins early February)

**Curator:** George Giacumakis, Ph.D., Museum of Biblical & Sacred Writings, in association with Emeritus Rabbi Haim Asa

**Location:** West Terrace, Pollak Library Second Floor

The Torah:
The Hebrew word *Torah* refers either to the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy), or to the *Tanakh*, the whole of the Hebrew Bible. These Hebrew texts are the Scriptures of both Jewish and Christian sacred writings. Other names for the first five biblical books are “The Five Books of Moses” or “The Pentateuch” (Greek).

Torah Scrolls have been copied by hand down through the centuries of history by Jewish Scribes. Because scrolls were hand copied and are inscribed on parchment, a Torah Scroll is very expensive to produce or to purchase. Synagogues, churches, educational institutions, museums and individuals have purchased Torah Scrolls for their collections and exhibits.

Torah Scrolls Ownership:
These Torah Scrolls, on gazelle skin parchment, are from northern Europe and several centuries old. They belong to the collection of Rabbi Haim Asa of Fullerton, CA. They have been reconditioned by Rabbi Asa’s son, Rabbi Ariel Asa of Atlanta, GA, who is also a Torah Scribe. The scrolls are on loan to the Museum of Biblical & Sacred Writings and Dr. George Giacumakis, which brought about this exhibit. It is important to keep in mind that the cost of the parchment alone for a Torah Scroll can be somewhere between $5,000 and $7,500. Also, the cost of a new Torah Scroll for the purchaser could be anywhere from $30,000 to $50,000.
Publications, Presentations, Awards, and Generally Exciting News

Faculty and staff news:
- Four History professors have been awarded sabbatical leaves for either fall 2014 or spring 2015: Dr. Jessica Stern, Dr. Maged Mikhail, Dr. Benjamin Cawthra, and Dr. Jochen Burgtorf.
- Dr. Benjamin Cawthra presented “Under the Volcano: Gordon Parks, the Bergman-Rossellini Romance, and Postwar US-Italian Relations” at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, November 21, 2013. He also served as a member of the Go For Broke National Education Center Exhibition Advisory Committee, which met at California State University, Dominguez Hills, December 6, 2013.

New publications:

Student/Alumni News:
- John Belleci, a History graduate student at CSUF, is featured in Sherry Posnick-Godwin’s “Student CTA President Is Bridging the Generation Gap” in California Educator, vol. 18, no. 4 (December 2013-January 2014).
- Jennifer Toler received her Single Subject Teaching Credential, Social Science. She has successfully booked some long-term sub positions teaching World History, AP European History, and U.S. History.

CSUF Graduate Student Named President of Old Riverside Foundation
Carol McDoniel, graduate student in history Associate Director of the Titan Student Union, was recently elected president of the Old Riverside Foundation for Historic Preservation. ORF is a non-profit, all-volunteer community organization that advocates for preservation of the built environment, including historic homes, commercial and public buildings, and historic landscapes.

McDoniel became involved with the Old Riverside Foundation as a docent for the home tour over twelve years ago. As a part of her graduate degree program she served as an intern with the organization in 2012 and then joined the board of directors in 2013. Her goals as president include, educating the community on the importance of preserving sites of cultural significance and the growing threat to mid-century modern and vernacular structures. She also hopes to continue recent partnerships with fellow preservation and historic associations, such as Riverside’s Save Our Chinatown Committee.

In memoriam - Giles T. Brown

With the passing of Giles Brown, CSUF lost one of its finest founding faculty. When he joined the campus in 1960 from Orange Coast College, it was still in organizational and curricular infancy. It had just begun organizing academic divisions—departments would not begin for another year or more. Giles was appointed chairman of the Division of Social Sciences, and in 1962 the chairman also of the newly-created History Department. He held both positions until the mid-1960s, helping both develop into what for a while were the largest school and one of the largest departments in the college. Anyone familiar with the tightly-held intellectual independence of such faculty can appreciate what an adept herder of cats he was in helping to achieve this organization. He was responsible for shaping both the faculty curriculum of the History Department. Particularly important was his early recognition of the importance of covering all areas of the world (in contrast to the still common emphasis on European and American history). CSUF hired faculty in Latin American, Asian, Middle Eastern, and African History by the late 1960s.

A key to Giles’ success as a chairman was his personality. He was one of the nicest people I have ever known. Almost always a cheery disposition, a warm smile, and a low key approach to working out differences and problems were his persona. These were manifested in such characteristics as his common greeting “Hello, young man” which remained constant even as advancing years made it seem less fitting. Another example was his sending notes of congratulation. Not only publications but local talks, promotions, participation in civic or academic activities often brought a personal note of praise.

In the late 1960s, Giles took on the new position of Dean of Graduate Studies. Here he helped shape the structure and standards for what until then had been a small number of post-baccalaureate programs that each set its own rules and objectives. He helped guarantee that the graduate programs this college developed within the confines of the Master Plan were comparable in requirements and worthy of acceptance in academe and the community. One lasting monument to his work in building the graduate programs was the Giles T. Brown Thesis Award, which he funded. He continued to hold this position, later expanded to Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Graduate Studies, until he retired in 1983.

The record of Giles Brown as faculty member and administrator is only part of his contribution to the campus and a broader Orange County community. While at OCC, he had delivered regular lectures on current events, especially international relations. He and his wife regularly went on summer vacations abroad, and he arrived at CSUF already a local authority on many lands and its leaders. He continued these lectures at OCC through his career at CSUF. Unknown to many of his colleagues, he became one of the campus’ most generous donors. Before the end of the century, he was a member of the Ontiveros Society, a campus group of people who gave a million dollars to CSUF. One room in McCarthy Hall bearing his name is a testimony to these many contributions.

by Lawrence B. de Graaf
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.

Portable Document Cameras available for loan to students and faculty through the Center for Oral and Public History!

Are you conducting oral history interviews? Do your informants have photographs or memorabilia you would like to collect or copy? Do you need to photograph archival materials? These cameras can help! Easy to use, they connect to your laptop via a USB port and take high quality digital still and video images. We have two sizes available, and the smaller is only the size of a Snickers bar! They are available for checkout by both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty, for use on all research and class projects.

Have an item for the May newsletter? Please contact Dr. Lynn Sargeant, at lsargeant@fullerton.edu

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California State University, Fullerton
Department of History
800 N. State College Blvd.
Fullerton, CA 92834-6846
Phone: (657) 278-3474
E-mail: raamaro@fullerton.edu

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