History Department Welcomes Dr. Stephen O’Connor!

This fall, the History Department welcomes its newest faculty member, Dr. Stephen O’Connor. Dr. O’Connor is originally from Ireland, where he did his primary and secondary schooling before going to Yale University for college.

Although his skill at the hammer throw made possible his study at Yale, Dr. O’Connor would like to stress that his career interests now focus on the research and teaching of Ancient History. Any resemblance to the picture of the hammer thrower on the History Department bulletin board is purely accidental!

After receiving his B.A. in Classics (Latin) at Yale, Dr. O’Connor spent a year working as a paralegal in New York City. He followed those experiences with two years working on an M.Phil. in Greek and Roman history at Wadham College, where he focused on Hellenistic and late Roman Republican history. Transferring to Columbia University for his Ph.D., he switched from Roman to Greek history as a result of taking a course on ‘War and Society in the Ancient Greek World.’ His Ph.D. dissertation examined the ways in which classical Greek armies and navies provisioned themselves, and what this can tell us about the nature and scale of economies in the classical Greek world.

Dr. O’Connor has taught ancient Greek and Roman history, and ancient Greek and Latin, at Columbia and at Bowdoin College in Maine. He also looks forward to teaching new courses in ancient Near Eastern and world history at CSUF.

History Grad Students Win Graduate Fellowships!

Jennifer L. Keil is a second year MA history student. Her research interests pertain to the American twentieth century with a focus on women’s history. She is a member of Phi Alpha Theta, European Students Society (ESS), and Entrepreneur Society. Jennifer was an event coordinator for ESS’s discussion on the European Debt Crisis and the Future of the European Union hosted by Wolfgang Drautz, the German General Consul, which was held in April 2012. As a passionate graphic designer, she used these skills for the layout of the 2012 Wekebeathan. She worked on the Brea Museum and Heritage Center 2012 summer exhibit on Art and Craftsmanship in the Twentieth Century. She is currently interviewing World War II women about the mechanization of the household for COPH archives.

Martin Ugelstad graduated from UCSD with a B.A. in history with an emphasis in European History in 2010. Today, he is a second-year graduate student in the History Department of CSUF. For the past year, he has been taking a combination of Latin America and European history courses to develop his thesis of immigration from Germany to Argentina in the 1940s. He currently works at a tutoring center teaching AP European history to high school students and social studies to elementary students. Martin says “I am honored to be able to receive the Graduate Equity Fellowship because it will allow me to further pursue my ultimate goal of obtaining my Ph.D. and becoming a professor. Thank you so much!”
Preserving the Past: CSUF Faculty and Staff Record the History of Stephen G. Mihaylo

The Education of Steven G. Mihaylo
By Dr. Volker Janssen

Talk to any person of influence with a rich life history, and chances are they will surprise you. That certainly was the case with the oral history interview Kira Gentry and I conducted with Steven G. Mihaylo at the request of Anil Puri, the Dean of the CSUF business college that carries his name. We would have expected stories of hard work and thrift, and those were aplenty. Like many successful entrepreneurs of his ilk, Mihaylo’s memories of almost unbelievably hard work during his youth are most vivid. Imagine the millionaire winning a competition in selling newspaper subscriptions, or launching a freelance business as a housepainter in Big Bear. There are stories of luck and savvy – think of a telecommunications entrepreneur selling off an excessive inventory of remarkably ugly phones from a Japanese vendor as “European design.” Hard work, wit, and some luck - we turn our past into memories that make sense of the way we see ourselves and our lives. And that is also true for a man like Mr. Mihaylo.

But who would have thought that the chief donor to the CSUF business school spent much of his childhood moving from one foster family to another? Or that he got himself in legal trouble for “borrowing” someone’s car and crashing it, or that his father pressured him into military service to teach him discipline? Or what about the time Mr. Mihaylo found himself getting shot at by Georgia segregationists during his military service? That is the beauty of good oral histories - they come with the twists and upsets real life consists of.

Dr. Gayle Brunelle will once again offer a weekly paleography workshop for students interested in acquiring or improving their skill with this valuable scholarly tool. This spring, the workshop will meet Wednesday afternoons, 3-5 pm. The schedule is designed to allow students with 4pm classes to attend the first hour, and students with 2:30pm classes to attend the second hour. Last year’s successful workshop allowed graduate students and advanced undergraduate students to practice learning to read late medieval and early modern manuscripts, as well as to benefit from the close mentoring offered by Dr. Brunelle, a very experienced and skilled veteran of archival research. Although paleography is hard work, it is both rewarding and fun as well.

Interested students should contact Dr. Brunelle at gbrunelle@fullerton.edu.
In August, a small delegation of CSUF faculty and administrators traveled to Uzbekistan to explore possibilities for academic cooperation between American and Uzbek universities. Our whirlwind tour of Uzbekistan included meetings with the Uzbek Ministry of Education, the American Ambassador to Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Education, and students. Wherever we traveled we were greeted with fabulous hospitality, warm smiles, and outstanding food! We had the opportunity to meet with faculty colleagues from a variety of disciplines and to learn about the challenges they face, as well as about opportunities for future collaboration. In particular, we discussed possibilities for future faculty and student exchanges, whether “virtual” or “in person.”

The unique history of Uzbekistan – first as an important center of learning and culture at the height of the Silk Road Era and later as part of the Russian/Soviet empire – make it a fascinating place for any historian to visit. Our delegation visited the surviving monuments of one of the key trading cities of the Silk Road – Samarkand – as well as ancient fortresses such as Ayaz-Kala.

If this sounds intriguing, check out History 411A this spring for a chance to “visit” this fascinating country!

What Do Professors Do When They Aren’t Grading Papers?

Dr. Jessica Stern recently published an article, “Native American Taste: Re-evaluating the Gift-Commodity Debate in the British Colonial Southeast,” Native South 5 (2012): 1-37, should be of interest to many history students and alumni. As Dr. Stern notes, her “article uses account books and order inventories in an effort to understand what Cherokee and Creek Indians were purchasing from English traders in the eighteenth century. It constructs an image of changing Native American taste and argues that Native Americans were active consumers who were more than comfortable with commodity trading. Creek and Cherokee individuals spent as much of their income on ribbon, lace, beads, needles, and thread, as they did on utilitarian textiles, demonstrating that far from blindly adopting European commodities they creatively refashioned these goods into items that were aesthetically pleasing to them.”

Dr. Stern’s article appeared in the journal, Native South, which is published by the University of Nebraska Press. According to the press, the journal “challenges scholars of southern history to expand their conception of the field to include more than the black and white post-colonial south that colors much of the historical literature of the region. The journal focuses on the investigation of Southeastern Indian history with the goals of encouraging further study and exposing the influences of Indian people on the wider South. It does not limit itself to the study of the geographic area that was once encompassed by the Confederacy, but expands its view to the areas occupied by the pre-contact- and the post-contact descendants of the original inhabitants of the South, wherever they may be.”

Rachael Amaro earned her B.A. in History from Cal State Fullerton in 2006. She thoroughly enjoyed her time as a student and was involved in many activities, including: Phi Alpha Theta, The Wellebaethan (as editor and author), and was appointed Vice Chair of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Interclub Council. She also worked as a Peer Mentor for Freshman Programs, New Student Orientation Leader (a position she held for three summers, more than any other NSO Leader), and student assistant in the Dean of Students Office.

Some of Rachael’s favorite things include: The Beatles, the color green, 21 Choices (the best frozen yogurt you’ll ever have!), reading, and going on food adventures with her sister. She has a passion for live theater having seen several award-winning musicals at various playhouses including her favorite, “Wicked,” which she has seen three times.

For the past six years she was employed as a tutor for Sylvan Learning Center and Test Center Administrator for Prometric Testing Services. She is extremely pleased to be back at CSUF and working in the superb department from which she received her degree.
An Italian Adventure, or, What I Did on My Summer Vacation

It is one thing to read about Italy and another to actually experience it—and what an experience it was. During my six-week stay in Italy, I gained a new appreciation and outlook towards a new culture. It is a nice change of pace to take an evening stroll by the historic Duomo, a magnificent architectural marvel that took centuries to build, or be part of the constant life at the Ponte Vecchio, another spectacular structure. One does not need to be a student of history to enjoy and appreciate Italy; one just needs to have an open mind in order to see the value of its history, architecture, food, and especially its people. Throughout my stay in Italy, I truly felt as if I was a local.

Throughout my stay, I was able to visit Siena’s grand Piazza del Campo, an important town square that can be turned into a track to host its historic bareback Palio horse races; explored San Gimignano’s stunning medieval towers and took in its picturesque hillsides; marveled at Pisa’s architectural ensemble consisting of the Duomo, baptistery, and of course the Leaning Tower at the Campo dei Miracoli; and spent a weekend in Rome making trips to the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, Roman Forum, and the Vatican. A special note has to be given to my weekend trip to Venice.

When I entered the city, I experienced a surreal moment. Never have I seen such a beautiful city and it is just as the pictures, films, and books depict it. The city on water offered a distinct cultural experience as life was constantly revolving around its intricate waterways. Popular destinations such as St. Mark’s Basilica or Piazza San Marco did not disappoint, nor did the small islands of Murano and Burano, known for their glass and lace making. Venice was truly a unique city. Indeed, all of the cities visited all have distinct features that make Italy a world cultural center. To think that I was at these places is still unbelievable to me.

It would not be Study Abroad without actually studying. However, the knowledge gained from the classroom went hand-in-hand with my adventures in Italy. In fact, it enhanced my appreciation as it allowed me to be more aware of its historical importance than most tourists. As a history student, Italy provided a first-hand account of what I read in the books or heard from a lecture. Ultimately, Study Abroad was an excellent opportunity to travel and learn about a new culture. There is no doubt that it had a lasting impact on my worldview. There is also no doubt that the friendships formed and experience gained had a major impact on my life.

Jose Luis is a history major at CSU Fullerton. He was one of nineteen students to study in Florence, Italy in summer 2012 with Dr. Benjamin Cawthra.

Study Europe without Leaving Home!: European Studies Society Hosts Events

Are you interested in learning about the culture, history, and society of Europe? Join the European Studies Society (ESS), an interdisciplinary club open to all majors. Come meet other students who share the same interests. Our events for this semester include: a study-abroad presentation on the peripheries of Europe; a historical study presentation about the Summer Olympic Games from a British perspective; and an interdisciplinary panel of experts on French culture, history, and society.

How do you get involved? Visit us online at www.facebook.com/ESS.CSUF and friend us at Facebook, contact us by email at ess.csuf@gmail.com, or come to our meetings: October 3rd, 17th, 31st; November 7th; and December 5th; at 2:30PM at Aloha Java near the H&SS building.
Faculty Publications, Presentations, and Awards

- Dr. Gordon Morris Bakken, History Department, addressed the Cal. State Fullerton OLLI on “Tax and Spend Governors of California” at its July 26th session and fifty teachers at La Madera Elementary School in a UCI Teach America grant session on August 28th. His topic was Thomas Jefferson and the “Revolution of 1800.”
- Dr. Gordon Morris Bakken, History Department, participated in the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County’s annual Constitution Day Conference at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo on September 28th. He addressed “Voting, Citizenship and the Issues Facing California” in two workshops.
- Dr. James D. Rietveld is celebrating the publication of London in Flames: Apocalypse 1666 (Dallas: Highland Loch Press, 2012).
- Dr. Lynn Sargeant presented a talk on “Queering History” as part of the 2012 CSUF Thinking Queer Speaker Series. The September 26 talk was sponsored by the Queer Studies Program, the Women/Gender Studies Program, and the ASI LGBT/Queer Resource Center.

SPOTLIGHT ON HISTORY ALUMNI

**Jon Resendez B.A. History 2006**
Since earning his Bachelor’s degree in history in 2006 Jon has completed the Social Science credential program at Cal State Fullerton. He is currently a second year student in the Political Science department’s M.A. program also here at Cal State Fullerton. He is employed by the Irvine Unified School District teaching Honors World History, Advanced Placement Government and Honors Comparative Religions at Irvine High School in Irvine. Most recently he was named a James Madison Memorial Foundation Senior Fellow in recognition of his academic achievement and teaching promise in the field of U.S. Constitutional history and Government. The fellowship includes up to 24,000 dollars to pay for his Master’s degree.

**Dr. Donald L. Stelluto M.A. History 1993**
B.A. Music Education and History 1986, B.M. Performance 1988, Dr. Stelluto, currently the Director of the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Notre Dame, was recently awarded a $1.58 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation for an interdisciplinary project titled “Pursuing the Unity of Knowledge: Integrating Religion, Science, and the Academic Disciplines.” Like many CSUF History majors and grad students, Stelluto was an active member of Phi Alpha Theta. His experiences in his history classes, particularly those taught by Dr. Gordon Morris Bakken, prepared him well for his future career as a historian, teacher, and public intellectual. “I had a great deal of reading and many demanding writing projects but, my time in his courses was well spent.” For more information about the grant, visit [http://news.fullerton.edu/2012fa/Stelluto-grant.asp](http://news.fullerton.edu/2012fa/Stelluto-grant.asp) Stelluto has a doctorate in U.S. Constitutional history from the University of Maryland.
Greetings!

By now, the fall semester of 2012 is in full swing, and we are very pleased to welcome to our ranks Dr. Stephen O’Connor, an expert in the history of Ancient Greece. This place is as busy as ever. We are conducting a national search for a professor in 19th-century U.S. history; our students are already working on next year’s edition of our award-winning student journal, the *Welebaethan*; we are engaged in a seven-year Program Performance Review; and we are launching new efforts to re-connect with our alumni. I hope you will enjoy this October 2012 issue of *Footnotes*.

Dr. Jochen Burgdorf