Currently, I plan for my dissertation to be an expansion of my thesis project, which focuses on U.S.-based opposition to the Marcos regime in the Philippines. My hope is to ultimately obtain a tenure-track position at a university where I can continue doing the research that I feel passionate about and can provide the same mentorship and guidance that the professors at CSUF have so graciously given to me. It is, indeed, a challenging road ahead, but I feel that this department has prepared me to tackle this next chapter.

Mark Sanchez, M.A.
Class of 2012
Looking Back at Graduation at CSUF with Dr. Gordon Bakken

When I arrived at California State College at Fullerton in 1969, I found graduation to be a relatively small and family-oriented affair. It was a far cry from graduation at the University of Wisconsin where graduates by the thousands marched into Camp Randall stadium to watch doctoral candidates awarded diplomas and the chancellor confer bachelor’s degrees on all assembled with a wave of the hand. As Fullerton grew to be California State University, Fullerton, we moved almost to the Wisconsin model. Graduation was by schools and it was a two-day affair. Students lined up and marched across a stage to shake hands with the President, have photographers take shots for the family album, and march off the stage to the cheers of family and friends. After the ceremonies, family and friends gathered briefly. It was there that I met so many parents celebrating the graduation of the first member of the family ever to go to college and graduate. I loved the experience because I was the first to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree and the family had been in Wisconsin since 1836.

This graduation by schools [later colleges] continued for years, but ended abruptly when a student crossed that stage only to throw up on President Cobb’s shoes. The greatest problem during these college-wide graduations was the passing of the bottle. Suddenly, graduation for the offending school was always in the morning and soon all graduations took place at the crack of dawn. We marched in by departments, listened attentively to a speaker, and hurried to departmental ceremonies. It was at the departmental ceremonies that the family orientation returned to center stage with the graduate. As the history department grew to be larger than three colleges in the university, we moved from a one-room ceremony in the student union to the front of the Humanities Building. Regardless of size, we celebrate the graduation of our students with their families and the greater family of Cal State Fullerton.

History Faculty Recognized for Their Contributions to the University

The Department of History is delighted to announce that three of its faculty members have received significant awards from CSUF’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences for their contributions to the success of the college and of California State University, Fullerton. Dr. Nancy Fitch is the recipient of the 2012 H&SS Award for Outstanding Service and Contributions to Student Success; Dr. Gayle Brunelle is the recipient of the 2012 H&SS Award for Outstanding Scholarship and Creativity; and Dr. William Haddad is the recipient of the 2012 H&SS Distinguished Faculty Member Award, the highest honor the college has to bestow. All these awards will be presented at the H&SS Faculty Convocation.
History Beyond the Classroom: The Battle of Costa Mesa

Battle of Costa Mesa  
Diary of Corp. Frank Sawin  
2nd Vermont Co. E  
In a field of Virginia

Friday, April 13, 1862
We arrived at the campsite around the time the sun was the brightest. The unit set up camp in the rain which let up around sundown. No sign of the Confederacy from our scouts. Eat some of the salt pork we were issued before the march.

Saturday, April 14, 1862
Rest of the Army marched into camp. Scouts reported that the enemy was on the march and heading our way. Issued more ammunition we marched out to face our enemy. First engagement we pushed off the field. Once back, I check the privates in my unit to make sure they were good. Ate some of the hardtack we issue. Order to fall in and once again faced the enemy. This time we pushed the enemy off the field. Returned to camp for dinner and to rest up for the next fight. My company was order to put a picket line out. I went to sleep in my shelter half around midnight; the weather was much warmer from last night.

Sunday, April 15, 1862
I woke up around sunrise. It was nice to be up before the drummers had a chance to play revelry near my tent. I think they are after me for some reason that I do not know. Finish up what was left of my rations for breakfast.

Once again I and my company were order to get ready for battle. Meet the enemy and once again push off the field. Forage around the camp for lunch. Reformed the company for battle and this time Union was victorious. Returned to camp to be issued rations and ready for the march out of camp.

In the Twentieth Century, Corp. Frank Sawin is Diana Uhlman, a senior at California State University, Fullerton, a History major. She has been reenacting for ten years, three in which are with the 2nd Vermont Company E. (www.coe2vt.org).

Big History of Grass: Dr. Markley in Amsterdam

The University of Amsterdam has had a Big History program since 1994, run by Fred Spier from the Instituut voor Interdisciplinaire Studies http://home.medewerker.uva.nl/fspier/, and this year they invited me to talk about my Big History of Grass project. I was informed that the university rents an old church, and I imagined giving my talk in some old church basement, not the spectacular 200 year old church of Moses and Aaron, with high vaulted ceilings, massive pipe organ and huge altar piece. I was so intimidated that I’m afraid I stumbled over the first several minutes of my talk. The Dutch audience was more reserved than a typical American one, but I got a good laugh out of them when I quoted one of my American students who asked (in an incredulous tone), “you’re going to Amsterdam to talk about GRASS????”. Alas, as I always have to explain, the drug isn’t actually a grass, otherwise I could have a whole chapter about hallucinogens in my book. What I was actually talking about is my attempt to write a grand narrative of the way in which grass species (including wheat, rice, corn and cane sugar) have altered the face of history.

Dr. Jonathan Markley

Spring Break, History-Style

History student Abby Dettenmaier travelled to Washington DC over Spring break to enjoy the world famous cherry blossoms and to view the highly anticipated Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, which opened last Summer. A must-see for all, particularly those who are hopeful public historians!
What I Did on My Spring Break: Traveling to Turkey with Dr. Fitch

I was fortunate to be able to spend Spring Break in Turkey to, among other things, explore the battlefields we know as Gallipoli (Çanakkale to the Turks). After World War I battles led to stalemate on the Western Front, the British in 1915 hoped to take the Dardanelles Straits to give its Russian ally access to the Mediterranean from the Black Sea. However, their enemy—the Ottoman Turks with the help of Germans, mined the Dardanelles, forcing the British into a costly amphibious campaign to take the Gallipoli Peninsula. The mission failed, some say because lousy terrain and lack of water doomed the expedition; others argue that the operation was much more complex and could have gone either way on multiple occasions. The victorious Turks suffered over a quarter million casualties, while the defeated allies lost almost 150,000. What historians agree on was that the British relied heavily on colonial troops, notably the Anzacs—soldiers from Australia and New Zealand. They also acknowledge the role played by one remarkable Turkish officer—Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Kemal.

Does visiting the battlefield help us understand what happened? Yes and no. Certainly, from the beach, it seems difficult but not impossible to scale the hill to attack Turkish strongholds. Not so visible are the countless hidden hills and gullies that also needed to be taken. Yet, the view from the top at Chunuk Bair, the site of the most advanced New Zealand position, makes the Dardanelles seem within reach, perhaps an easy trek down more favorable terrain. Kemal’s heroic efforts might explain Anzac difficulties and figure significantly in narratives of Gallipoli. On April 25, 1915, as Anzac soldiers advanced, Turkish soldiers were ready to run until Kemal, so the story goes, urged them to stay and fight—die if necessary—to hold the ground, which they did. Later, on August 10, alive only because a shrapnel ball hit his pocket watch and not his chest, Kemal led the drive that pushed New Zealand soldiers from Chunuk Bair, effectively ending the British advance. Facing mounting casualties, the British abandoned their Dardanelles operation in January 1916.

Visiting the battlefields also demonstrates the power of wartime memories to forge modern nations, in this case not only Turkey, but also Australia and New Zealand. The famous monument of a Turkish soldier carrying a wounded Anzac is part of the story now being told about the battle. The Turks and Anzacs were not only fighting each other, both were also part of a larger story of British domination and colonialism. This is a story which allows Turkey to encourage thousands of people from Australia and New Zealand to visit the battlefields each year on Anzac Day (April 25). At the same time, one cannot go anywhere in contemporary Turkey without encountering monuments, paintings, bumper stickers, paper weights, refrigerator magnets and other memorabilia reminding everyone of the quasi-mythic power of the man who first gained fame in this battle and later went on to forge a modern and secular nation, the man who later changed his name to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk—“father of the Turks.”

For more, be sure to sign up for my History 395—the History of the First World War, being offered this summer.
Faculty Publications and Presentations

- Dr. David Freeman spoke to an audience of 75 members of the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston S. Churchill Society of British Columbia on March 15th at the Vancouver Club in Vancouver, BC. The subject of his talk was “Churchill, Edward and Mrs. Simpson.”
- Dr. Volker Janssen presented a paper, “Prison Privatization in the Sunbelt: The New Deal State at Market” at the conference “Sunbelt Prisons and the Carceral State: New Frontiers of State Power, Resistance, and Racial Oppression,” which was held on March 24, 2012 at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX.
- Dr. Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi and Dr. Philippe Zacair are recipients of this H&SS Summer 2012 Research and Writing Stipend of $5000 to support scholarly activity this summer.
- Dr. Jessica Stern was recognized for her instrumental contributions to the History Department’s Assessment Committee at the 2012 Faculty Recognition Ceremony for Service.
- Dr. Neufeld also chaired a panel at the fifth annual Cal State Fullerton Latin American Studies Student Association Conference (LASSA). Among other highlights, history student Jessica Rosales presented “The Establishment of the Viceroyalty of New Spain: Bureaucracy and Regulations That Consolidated Control, 1535-1564” and history/women’s studies major Caralou Rosen presented “The Harmless Figure: Caste, Race and Gender in Colonial New Spain, 1750-1810” to a sizable audience in the Titan Theater.

Student and Alumni News

- Dr. Aliou Ly, a former History graduate student, will graduate from UC Davis with his Ph.D. this June, and has a tenure-track position in African History at Middle Tennessee State University.
- Ms. Tert Stevens won first place for Best European History paper (Phi Alpha Theta awards) at the SSSA conference in San Diego.
- Dr. Stephen Neufeld’s History 451C (Modern Latin America) class has triumphed in the inaugural competition of La Gran Búsqueda—an educational scavenger hunt for over 50 items of material culture ranging from gaucho pants and indigenous outfits to Peruvian candies and El Salvadoran currency. Judged by an international panel of five Latin American history professors, CSUF soundly defeated Miami University, Susquehanna University and Northern Arizona University to take home the coveted Cochon D’Or trophy. There was much lamentation. The prize will be displayed in Dr. Neufeld’s office until next year’s event.

Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference

On Saturday, April 14, 2012, the History Department hosted the 2012 Southern California Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honor Society, in CSUF’s Mihaylo Hall. It was attended by over 130 participants and featured paper presentations by 90 students from 13 different colleges and universities: Chapman University, several CSUs (Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, Los Angeles, Northridge, San Marcos, as well as Cal Poly Pomona and San Diego State University), UCLA, University of Redlands, and Vanguard University. Highights included a luncheon at the Marriott and the announcement of the Best Paper Awards. Top honors in the “graduate paper competition” went to CSU Fullerton’s Kyle Walker (1st), Damian McCoy (2nd), and Jay Buteyn (3rd); top honors in the “undergraduate paper competition” went to UCLA (1st), Chapman (2nd), and Cal Poly Pomona (3rd). The paper judges included a professor from the University of West Georgia, a curator from the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, the publisher of Harlan Davidson Inc., and the editor-in-chief of the University of New Mexico Press.

Annual Lectures Bring History to the Public

Each spring, the CSUF Department of History sponsors two significant public lectures. The Rietveld Lecture was established in 2009 to honor Professor Ronald Rietveld for his service for his service to the department and the university over more than 40 years. The 3rd annual Rietveld Lecture was held April 20, 2012, at the Fullerton Marriott. A large and diverse audience heard Ronald C. White Jr. (picture to the left) speak on “Abraham Lincoln’s Diary.” White is the author of the award-winning book *A. Lincoln: A Biography* (Random House, 2009), which won a Christopher Award, which salutes books “that affirm the highest values of the human spirit.”

On April 26, 2012, the 4th annual Hansen Lecture brought political activist Tom Hayden (picture below), former California senator and a longtime leader of peace, justice and environmental movements, to the Fullerton Arboretum. Like the Rietveld Lecture, the Hansen Lecture was established in honor of one of the History Department’s founding members, Professor Arthur A. Hansen, whose many contributions to CSUF include his outstanding leadership as a former director of the Center for Oral and Public History. Hayden is founder and director of the Peace and Justice Resource Center in Culver City, as well as the author of more than a dozen books, including “The Lost Gospel of the Earth” (1996), “Ending the War in Iraq” (2007), and “The Long Sixties” (2009).
The History Department is delighted to announce the launch of a major new fundraising campaign. The Phi Alpha Theta Fund for Student Research and Creative Activities commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Department’s award-winning Theta Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. More than simply recognizing the achievements of the past, the campaign is designed to help current and future students scale new heights as they pursue their degrees and launch their careers.

Funds raised by the campaign will be used exclusively to support student research and creative activities, such as travel to archives, presentation of scholarly papers at major national and international conferences, and the preparation of museum exhibits and public history projects.

The CSUF Theta-Pi chapter, established fifty years ago, has distinguished itself nationally with over thirty “Best Chapter Awards” and numerous Nash “Best Journal” prizes for the Welebaethan, our student journal of History. The chapter members have given hundreds of papers at professional conferences including those of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Western History Association, the Southwest Oral History Association, the Southwestern Social Science Association, as well as the Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention, the Southern California Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, and the International Medieval Congress. Members of the Theta-Pi chapter have served on the national council, advisory board, and as vice president and president. Several Theta-Pi members have served as Phi Alpha Theta advisors at other institutions of higher learning and continue to encourage students to achieve at the highest levels. Many of the Theta-Pi members have gone on to serve their country in uniform. We salute them for their sacrifice and service.

The next fifty years will see more outstanding students of History join the chapter and move on to careers of all types. The next fifty years may be years of sacrifice for the chapter in terms of time and treasure. With the help of donors to the Phi Alpha Theta Fund, we will maintain the high standards and national stature of the chapter.

Please Consider Contributing Today!