The History Department Welcomes Five New Professors

New classes, new topics, new perspectives, new methodologies, and new (as well as some very old) languages - in short: five new professors. The Department of History at California State University, Fullerton, is very excited to begin the 2007/2008 Academic Year by welcoming a spectacular cohort of young scholars to its dynamic ranks, namely two historians whose work focuses on the Middle East; two “public” historians who will undoubtedly make valuable contributions to CSUF’s Center for Oral and Public History (COPH); and one American colonial historian with a strong interest in Native American history. ● Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi (Ph.D. 2000, UCLA) is our new professor for the history of the Modern Middle East. She has taught classes on “Middle East History in Film,” on “Women and Gender in Middle East History,” and on the “Methodology of History” - to name but a few, and she is currently working on a book, titled “Educating Modern Iranian Women.” ● Maged S.A. MIKHAIL (Ph.D. 2004, UCLA) is our new professor for world history, 500-1500. His teaching and research interests include late antiquity, the medieval and modern Middle East (Egypt in particular), and archaeology. He is currently working on the transcription and correlation of the Coptic glosses to the Arabic critical edition of the Gospels of Mark and Luke. ● Raymond W. RAST (Ph.D. 2006, Univ. of Washington, Seattle) is one of our new professors for U.S. public history. The classes previously taught by him include: “Who Owns History?: Museums, Preservation, and the Politics of the Past.” He is currently working on several “National Historic Landmark” studies, for example “César Chávez and the Farmworker Movement in the American West.” ● Benjamin CAWTHRA (Ph.D. 2007, Washington University in St. Louis) is one of our new professors for U.S. public history. His teaching and research interests include African American history, Jazz cultural studies, photography and film, and the history of sports. He is currently working on a book (based on his dissertation, “Blue Notes in Black and White: Photography, Race, and the Image of Jazz, 1936-1965”). ● Professor Jessica Stern SPIVEY (Ph.D. 2007, Johns Hopkins Univ.) is our new professor for American colonial history. She has a particular interest in British and Native American interaction in the Southeast. Her list of scholarly papers includes “Formation and Transformation of Identity: Southeastern Indian and British Gifts,” and “The Creek and Yuchi Busk: Towards a Theory of Production and Distribution.” ● For our new professors’ contact information, please visit us at http://hss.fullerton.edu/history/facultystaff.asp, or call the CSUF Department of History at (714) 278-3474.
As of this fall, the new graduate program advisor is Professor Allison Varzally who is taking over from Professor Robert McLain. Dr. Varzally earned her Ph.D. at UCLA in 2002. She specializes in the social, cultural, and political history of intercultural relations in twentieth-century California. Her teaching interests include the histories of mixed race peoples, youth cultures, the Immigrants’ West, and comparative American regions. All incoming, current, and future graduate students are encouraged to read the updated information about our graduate program at http://hss.fullerton.edu/history/gradprogram.asp, where Dr. Varzally’s CSUF contact information is listed as well. Many thanks to Dr. McLain, our former graduate program advisor, for his years of hard work, and best wishes to Dr. Varzally.

New Graduate Advisor: Dr. Allison Varzally

Phi Alpha Theta and H(istory) S(tudents) A(ssociation) News

CSUF’s Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honor Society, has received the society’s nation-wide BEST CHAPTER AWARD for 2007, continuing the proud tradition of this student club here at CSUF. ● At the ANNUAL BANQUET, held on April 27, 2007, at the Fullerton Arboretum (and sold out over a month in advance), 34 new members were inducted into the chapter. ● The 2007 AWARD RECIPIENTS honored at the annual banquet were Richard Beck (Carmen Delphine Bayati Memorial Scholarship), Gilbert Domingo (Larry de Graaf Graduate Student Award), Jacqueline Alvarino (Warren Beck History Student Award), Kira Gentry (Nancy Fitch Women’s History Award), Dr. Natalie Fousekis (Gordon Morris Bakken Faculty Award), Susan ShoHo Uyemura (The NEW Theta-Pi Advisor’s Award), and Matthew Mullen (The NEW LaBouff Memorial Award). ● The 2007 WELEBAETHAN, the Theta-Pi Chapter’s journal of history, featuring student papers, edited by students, and published by students, contains several papers whose authors were also honored at the annual banquet: Best Western History Paper), Gail Taylor (“The Laboratory’s Transition” - Best European History Paper), Richard Beck (“The Moneylenders’ Trade” - Best Asian History Paper), and Rachael Amaro (“Women & African Americans” - Best U.S. History Paper). ● Forthcoming CONFERENCES that our students are encouraged to submit papers to: (1) Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention (Albuquerque, NM, January 3-5, 2008); (2) SSSA Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV, March 12-15, 2008); (3) Southern California Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference (Chapman University, Orange, CA, date to be announced). For more information about these conferences, contact Dr. J. Burgtorf at jburtorf@fullerton.edu, or Dr. G. Bakken at gbakken@fullerton.edu. ● The membership and board meetings of both Phi Alpha Theta and HSA are open to all. This fall semester, they will be held on September 6, October 11, and November 8 (all three dates are Thursdays), at 6 p.m. To find out the details and locations of these meetings, please e-mail jburtorf@fullerton.edu to have your name added to the clubs’ e-mail distribution list. ● We are looking forward to an-

FOOTNOTES August 2007
Lost in Nepal: Part One

FOOTNOTES thanks Professor Kristine Dennehy for this exciting first-person account and apologizes for publishing it in installments: “In January 2005, I got separated from my trekking group en route from Ghalekarka to our next camp site. Since dusk was fast approaching, I decided to stay put and call out for someone to find me. After a while, two young men came into sight. It didn't take long for me to realize that these men were Maoist guerrillas. A few characteristics led me to this conclusion: their darker complexion; a particular toughness in their eyes and face; the machete on their backs. Two other Maoist guerrillas had come to our camp site the previous night; everyone in our group had paid a “tax” of Rs 600 and had been given a “receipt” that was valid until the end of our trek. Somehow my overwhelming sense was not fear. It was almost as if they were as surprised to see me, a lone blue-eyed white woman in the middle of the fields, as I was to see them. Immediately, I put my hands together in front of me, slightly bowed my head and said, “Namaste” (literally, “I salute all divine qualities in you”), and they in turn greeted me in the same way. It was a greeting that had become automatic, as we passed commuting schoolchildren, villagers on their way to the city of Pokhara, and the occasional buffalo herder. These young men, it seemed, were no different in these initial exchanges. I didn’t have the name of our camp site for that night, but my itinerary did list the village that we were scheduled to visit the next day, Siklis. I figured, if I at least headed in the general direction of Siklis, perhaps I’d find my group somehow. As soon as I said, “Siklis,” they both responded by outstretching their arms and pointing clearly past the village down below us to our left. It was clear by now that I had nothing to fear. They had not even asked for my “receipt!” I thanked them over and over again and set out toward the village below, called Chipli. As I approached the far end of the village, the view of the hillside and mountains in the distance was spectacular, but it didn’t include any sign of my group anywhere. I backtracked toward the schoolyard, where a lively volleyball game was underway. One man came forward and asked me, “Can I help you?” It turns out he had worked for a Korean company in Saudi Arabia several years ago, so his English was quite good. He offered to let me stay in his family’s house that night, and then, I hoped, direct me to Siklis the following day. I simply said “Thank you,” to this man who was willing to take care of me. As they still had to finish their volleyball game, a boy of about ten was designated to bring me to his family’s house.” To be continued in our next issue.

Now Hiring: Three Searches

The CSUF Department of History is currently conducting three searches (tenure-track assistant professorships; date of appointment: August 2008) in the fields of Modern Mexico, Modern Europe (excluding Russia), and Early Modern England. The application deadline is November 16, 2007. For further information, call the CSUF Department of History at (714) 278-3476, or visit us at http://hss.fullerton.edu/history/employmentops.asp. For the benefit of those among our readers who are not intimately familiar with our department’s recent history: the history of Modern Mexico used to be taught by our colleague Dr. Heather McCrea (who is now teaching at Kansas State University), the position in Modern Europe (as it is being advertised) is new, and the history of Early Modern England used to be taught by our colleague Dr. Cecile Zinberg (who has recently retired). The department is looking forward to adding colleagues in the above-mentioned fields to the ranks of its full-time faculty.

These days, if you happen to drive by the construction site of the new Steven G. Mihaylo Hall, the future home of CSUF’s College of Business and Economics (CBE), you will see this delightful banner. FOOTNOTES just wants its readers to know that if they wish to contact (or make donations) to the CSUF Department of History, this banner’s contact information is incorrect. Nonetheless, FOOTNOTES hopes that all CBE students will take the banner’s message
Touraj DARYAAEE (Ph.D. 1999, UCLA), an associate professor in the department, is, as of this fall, the Baskerville Professor of Iranian History and the Persianate World, and Associate Director of the Dr. Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies at the University of California, Irvine. His new homepage is at


Volker JANSSEN (Ph.D. 2005, UCSD), an assistant professor in the department, is a postdoctoral fellow at the USC-Huntington Institute for California and the West (2007-2009), teaching at the University of Southern California and revising his dissertation for publication at the Huntington Library in San Marino.