Dr. Ray Rast Participates in White House Forum on American Latino Heritage

Of the 86,000 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, only three percent are connected to Latino history. Of the 137 properties in California that have been designated National Historic Landmarks, only one – the Delano headquarters of the United Farm Workers – is related to twentieth-century Latino history. To remedy such deficiencies, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and the National Park Service have launched a “Latino Heritage Initiative.” As the historian working most closely with the Park Service on its study of properties related to Cesar Chavez, I was one of fourteen scholars invited to help spearhead this initiative. We launched our work on October 14 with a White House Forum on American Latino Heritage. The forum, which brought more than five hundred people to the Interior Department headquarters in Washington D.C., was a remarkable event. The highlight was a speech by President Obama, but we also heard from Secretary Salazar, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Senator Bob Menendez, Major General Angela Salinas, UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta, and many others. Following breakout discussion sessions that the other scholars and I helped moderate, we gathered in Secretary Salazar’s office for a reception and informal discussion of our next steps – including nominations for new listings on the National Register. I am eager to work with students to write some of these nominations in the semesters to come.

The World War II Experience of Orange County Nikkei

On Wednesday, October 19, Emeritus Professor Art Hansen, along with Chizuko Judy Sugita De-Queiroz, presented a talk on “The World War II Experience of Orange County Nikkei in History and Memory” at the Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum on the grounds of the Fullerton Arboretum. The talk was one of several public presentations that are a part of the exhibit “New Birth of Freedom: Civil War to Civil Rights in California” currently on display at the museum. Hansen’s talk focused on Orange County’s most famous World War II hero, Kazuo Masudo, including the controversies that arose over his burial. More generally, Hansen discussed the difficult process through which Japanese American gained redress and reparations for their wartime internment, describing how the words of Captain Ronald Reagan in 1944, uttered at a rally to recognize the patriotic contributions of Japanese-Americans in the war, ultimately became a catalyst in President Reagan’s decision to sign the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

“Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way — an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. This is the American way.” Ronald Reagan, Santa Ana Bowl, 1944
FIRST and History Scholars Connect With Teachers

Fullerton International Resources for Schools and Teachers (FIRST) is a California State Subject Matter Project that provides training in content and pedagogy to assist teachers in surrounding schools to continue learning history/social science content and strategies to implement the State History/Social Science Standards in K-12 classrooms. FIRST places all programs in a Global/International context. Summer institutes and school year seminars focus on improving knowledge of the world by exploring international themes and issues inherent in understanding the geography, economics, government, cultures and religions of the U.S., the world and regions.

Dr. Bill Haddad launched FIRST on the CSUF campus seventeen years ago. Over the years FIRST has worked primarily within the History and Secondary Education Departments. As an interdisciplinary project scholars from multiple areas have also provided valuable participation in FIRST programs. Dr. Claire Palmerino, Associate Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, serves as the project PI, and Connie DeCapite is Director of FIRST.

History department scholars were busy this summer working with FIRST to advance local secondary teacher’s understanding of content through a variety of programs. Dr. Bill Haddad, Dr. Lisa Tran and Dr. Laichen Sun participated in an exciting five-day summer institute, U.S. and China: A Journey Shared. The seminar was held at the Nixon Presidential Library Education Center. Dr. Jack Liu from Foreign Languages, Dr. Feng Xiao from the Economics department, Mindy Farmer, and Dr. Tim Naftali, Director of the Nixon Presidential Library, also contributed to the program which focused on interactions between the U.S. and China from early trade contacts to the evolving relationship today.

Dr. Natalie Fousekis, Dr. Ben Cawthra and Dr. Stan Breckenridge all assisted in planning and presenting a second summer institute, From Slavery to Civil War to Civil Rights held in the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District as part of our Teaching American History partnership grant. Dr. Ron Rietveld and Connie DeCapite provided leadership to 30 teachers on a ten-day study tour as part 2 of this institute. The study tour went to Philadelphia, Civil War Battlegrounds, Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Washington, D.C. Dr. Craig Ihara, Professor Emeritus from the Philosophy Department, shared his expertise on Confucian Philosophy for teachers in the Irvine Unified School District as a part of the Korea PACE (Program to Advance Cultural Education) program which is a partnership between FIRST, the Irvine Education Foundation, and the Irvine Korean Parents Association (IKPA). In August Dr. Chodhury Shamim from Political Science joined FIRST in a final summer program, 9/11: Ten Years Later.

Local History as World History:
A Walking Tour of the Fullerton Arboretum with Professor Steve Jobbitt

The CSUF History Department World Civilizations Committee sponsored a unique faculty workshop on October 26. They invited faculty to join Dr. Steve Jobbitt and his HIST 490T "Environmental History" class for a walking tour of the Fullerton Arboretum. Attendees explored the different ways this physical space can be analyzed as a historical artifact, and how local history can be read as world history. The tour was designed to be especially useful for instructors who have thought about including environmental themes into their courses, or who are looking for innovative ways to get students thinking critically about physical spaces as primary sources. Topics that were covered on the tour included: botany and empire, conservation, community gardens, urban green spaces, nature and nation building, and more.
From Ancient Scribe to Modern Scribe

On October 23rd, George Giacumakis, with the Museum of Biblical & Sacred Writings, co-sponsored with Temple Beth Tikvah of Fullerton The Dead Sea Scrolls & the Scribal Arts. The focus was to show how the copying of sacred writings continues from the ancient world to the present day via the modern Torah Scribe. What fun to show the historical stream over the centuries of time. Audience members had a chance to see and hear about the scribal practices from ancient times of copying sacred texts, using the example of the Dead Sea Scrolls, to the contemporary copying of Torah Scrolls. The day included a live demonstration by Rabbi Ariel Asa, a Torah Scribe from Atlanta!

Hey Seniors! (A little update from the undergrad advisors)

The History Department has completed graduation checks for Fall 2011 graduates. Please review your Titan Degree Audit (TDA) to verify that you will satisfy all requirements in the following categories:
1) General Education (GE)
2) History Major
3) English Writing Proficiency (EWP) exam
4) 120-unit requirement (under "units earned" at the end of the TDA)

In addition, look out for any minus signs in the GE section and on the last page of the TDA (concerning residency requirements, upper-division units, etc.) and verify that any duplicate/repeat units have already been subtracted from your "units earned" number overall.

Finally, confirm that your upper-division History courses are in the proper world area categories (i.e. you have two courses listed in three out of four world areas and two courses in upper-division Electives). If a course needs to be moved to its proper category, please call or drop by the History Department to make an advisement appointment. Wishing you a productive and enjoyable final semester!

Staff Profile: Linda Rodgers “a little bit of HISTORY”

Working in the academic environment has been a true blessing to me. I initially started on campus working in the Director of Admissions office with Dr. James Blackburn; this experience gave me an insight on the reality of academia. After working there for 3 months I learned how very important it was to be able to partner with parents and students. With that I gained an even greater desire to be more involved with students in helping to guide, listen to their concerns, and offer realistic avenues to ensure that they were on the right path to reach their goals.

I believe that in order to make a difference you must be able to be available, and meet the needs of each faculty and student on a one to one basis. While working as a temp in the History Department for 3 months I was offered a permanent position, which I happily accepted. During the first 5 years I held the position as support staff, and have since moved forward to the position of Department Coordinator as I approach my 12th year. I have had the pleasure of working with such a diverse group of people. My life has been enriched in so many ways. Absolutely nothing has been more satisfying, productive, gratifying, and conducive, as being a part of an establishment that educates and promotes young lives! Some folks hate the mornings because they “have to” go and work, in a place where the only pleasurable fulfillment is receiving a paycheck. I love what I do, and I love the people that I work with, it is a “gift” to be happy and satisfied in the work place. I live my life in semesters, they’re here and then they’re gone. The students come for an education and I am glad to be a part of their lives in assisting them. I am rewarded every time I see one of our freshman students reach the goal of walking across the stage to receive his or her diploma and I think to myself “that was one of MY babies.”

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Award Winners! CSUF Graduate Equity Fellowship

My name is Yolanda Leon Polequaptewa and I am a first year graduate student in the department of history. I am very honored to have received a CSUF Graduate Equity Fellowship.

I have spent most of my life in Orange County – I was born in Anaheim and raised in a working-class family in Stanton. Currently, I live in Garden Grove with my husband and two young daughters. Having a family in graduate school is challenging, but also provides a tremendous amount of love, support, and (sometimes) welcome distraction!

I received my undergraduate degree from UCLA at the age of 20, where I was on the Vice Provost’s Honor List multiple times. I have presented at the National Indian Education Association Conference and am a contributing author for a book currently in press, entitled, Cultural Considerations in Mental Health.

My plan is to pursue a doctorate degree, and I am grateful to the faculty and staff at CSUF for their excellent orientation and commitment to graduate student training thus far. Depending on the day, my research interests tend to fluctuate between local Orange County history, Native American history, and the Southwest, yet I am definitely a historian of more modern (1900s) history.
Visiting Scholars in their Own Words: Meet Chen Hongsheng and Gao Ying

Chen Hongsheng is from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China, where the province borders with Vietnam both over land and sea, and has a close relation with Southeast Asian countries, economically and culturally. Ms. Chen received her BA from Guangxi University, and her MA from Guangxi University for Nationalities, China. She also spent one year in northern Thailand and northern Myanmar for field research during her MA study, and has taken frequent study tours to Southeast Asian countries and the Tai-speaking region in Northern India. She has recently worked as a researcher at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Guangxi Academy of Social Sciences, which is a think tank of Guangxi provincial government. Her research interests include: cultural relations of Tai-speaking people in South China and Southeast Asia, politics of Southeast Asian countries especially Thailand, and current relationships between China and Southeast Asia.

Ms. Chen has been in the United States as a visiting scholar since March 2010, sponsored by Guangxi government. She was with St. Mary’s College of Maryland (SMCM) before moving to the Department of History, California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), in July 2010, under the supervision of Dr. Sun Laichen. To improve her research skills and knowledge, she has exposed herself to English publications on Southeast Asian history studies, especially the history of Thailand and Vietnam, spending much time in reading and data collection. She also audited classes at CSUF, including Early Vietnam and Modern Vietnam, both taught by Professor Sun, as well as Quantitative Methods for Anthropology in the Department of Anthropology. In addition to the warm hospitality that Ms. Chen receives everywhere inside and outside the campus, what impresses her most so far includes: the wide sharing and free availability of research data; the accessibility of different databases, such as WorldCat, many of which she is able to use for the first time; the intellectual atmosphere in classes and seminars which allows all participants to be receptive to new ideas rather than being dogmatic; and the ideal of university education at CSUF as teaching students to think, to question and to appreciate. Ms. Chen’s visit at CSUF will last until April 2012.

Gao Ying, an assistant professor at Kunming University in southwest China, is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History in Yunnan University with an emphasis on the ethnic history of the southwestern frontiers of China. She was awarded a scholarship by the China Scholarship Council under the State Scholarship Fund to pursue her study in the United States for twelve months as a visiting scholar. She would like to write her dissertation on “US studies on Yunnan.”

In April 2011, she began her research in the Department of History at CSUF. She observed American students thinking actively during class, always conveying their own viewpoints concerning questions posed by professors, which differs from Chinese students. She was also impressed by the CSUF library. It’s so fast and convenient to borrow and download a large amount of sources in the library and on the internet, even by interlibrary loan. And all of the librarians have been so kind and patient, and they always warmheartedly help her. With such an efficient system, she found many studies by American scholars on her province, Yunnan.

History Department Wins Campus Assessment Award

The Department of History was recently selected as the 2011 recipient of the Advancement in Assessment Award (AAA). The awards panel “was especially impressed with how the department has transformed the culture in the department to embrace rather than disregard assessment. Also, noteworthy is the implementation of a capstone/culmination experience for students in the 490T courses where the department’s learning outcomes for majors are assessed.” The award was presented on October 7, 2011, at the annual institute on Program Performance Review and Assessment.

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FOOTNOTES

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When we see our students walk across the stage during commencement, what do we want to be sure that each of those students knows about history and historical practice, and how do we figure out if they have attained that knowledge and skill set?”
Social Justice and Community Engagement: WE! Workshops Continue

History professor Steve Jobbitt has been working with a group of student activists on campus who are trying to raise awareness about issues of social, global and educational justice.

Last year, their organization, WE!, started a series of weekly workshops on a variety of issues such as the revolution in Egypt, neo-liberalism, the political situation in Arizona and Wisconsin, and so on. The workshops generally drew between 30 and 50 people a week, and brought in students and faculty from at least 8 other campuses in the OC/LA area. One of the group's biggest achievements last year was a workshop that gave rise to "The Declaration to Defend Public Education."

This fall, WE! is presenting a new series of workshops. Workshops planned or already presented this semester include "The CSU in Crisis: From the Master Plan to the Chancellor's Plan," and "My Life as a Dreamer: Stories from the Front Lines."

Faculty Publications, Presentations, and Awards


� Dr. David Freeman has published "Winston Churchill & Eamon De Valera: A Thirty Year Relationship," in The Churches in Ireland: Connections and Controversies, edited by Robert McNamar (Irish Academic Press, 2011). The chapter and book are the product of a conference he attended in 2009 hosted by the University of Ulster in Belfast. Dr. Freeman's travel expenses for the conference were covered by the money he received as the recipient of the 2008 CSUF Humanities and Social Sciences Part-time Faculty Member of the Year.

� Dr. Freeman is also celebrating the publication of a book he edited, John Campbell's The Inn Lady: From Grocer's Daughter to Prime Minister, abridged ed (Penguin, 2011). The book is the basis for a forthcoming biography starring Meryl Streep. Look for the film later this year!

� Dr. David Hall received the 2011 Arrington-Prucha Prize for the best essay of the year on Religious History in the West from the Western History Association for his article “A Crossroads for Mormon Women: Amy Brown Lyman, J. Reuben Clark, and the Decline of Organized Women's Activism in the Relief Society," which was published in the Journal of Mormon History in Spring 2010.

� Dr. Lynn Sargeant presented her paper “We Need People’s Houses, We Need Thousands of People’s Houses: The Great War, the Revolution, and the War on Backwardness” at the Clemson Conference on Russian Culture during the First World War and the Revolution, 1914-1922. The conference is part of a massive multinational effort to reframe the history and historiography of World War I, the Revolution, and the Russian Civil War. When complete, the project will include the contributions of more than 300 historians and will be published in 15 volumes by Slavica press. It will also be available online through Project Muse.

NOCHE EN EL MUSEO

On October 20, History professor Stephen Neufeld served as a scholarly discussant at a unique event, sponsored by the CSUF Anthropology Teaching Museum. Noche en el Museo: Witchcraft and Authority in Colonial Michoacan, Mexico allowed students, faculty, and community members to “explore the world of witchcraft in medieval Spanish and Purepecha cosmovisions.” Guest speakers Dr. Gerardo Sanchez Diaz, director of the Instituto de Investigaciones Historicos de La Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo in Michoacan, and Dr. Amarcus Lucas Hernandez, a professor at La Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, provided the audience with detailed discussions of religious and spiritual beliefs in Colonial Mexico.

Dr. Amarcus Lucas Hernandez's talk was an analysis of the connections between Augustinian friars, especially Juan de Medina Plaza, and Purepecha visions of the world around them. In his paper, he looked at colonial dictionaries and accounts to compare linguistically terms and ideas that showed the miscommunication between Spanish and indigenous in the 1570s. This was particularly the case when looking at ideas about the supernatural, such as the nature of the soul, and the afterlife. Somewhere in the interactions, he argued, some important elements of indigenous culture and wisdom was repressed and perhaps lost.

Dr. Gerardo Sanchez Diaz looked more directly at the ideas and uses of sorcery and/or medicine among the Purepecha using 3 cases from the Relacion de Michoacan from the 1580s to early 1600s. Through examinations of their rituals, rites, and healing practices, he demonstrated how magic was part of an integrated system of knowledge, and a way of knowing. He argued that for indigenous groups, it was all about understanding the world in terms of energy—healthy fire and sun, or curses of energy that caused illness due to frustrations or anger. Again, he pointed to words of power, untranslatable expressions that framed indigenous ideas and that friars and the Spanish just did not comprehend. And he argued that we have lost a great deal from that encounter including ways of knowing, herbal remedies, and Mexican indigenous heritage (patrimony).
A History of the World in Two Hours

A History of the World in Two Hours, which recently aired on H2, the new “spinoff” of the History Channel that features more traditional historical documentaries, was reviewed in the New York Times (October 6, 2011).

The documentary, which featured CSUF’s own Dr. Jonathan Markley was described by the Times as “a spunky recap of what’s been going on since the Big Bang that really does, by the end, feel like everything you need to know about history.” Just as important, the review continued, the “history here may be compact, but it doesn’t feel dumbed-down.”

The DVD is available for sale on the History Channel website, along with its other series, including Ice Road Truckers, Hairy Bikers, and UFO Hunters.

Reviews of the show by viewers, although still few in number, are overwhelmingly favorable. Joselito from Chicago, IL remarked “I stopped watching the World Series playoff between Yankees / Detroit. You are never too young or old to realize the importance of how civilization developed,” while Adriana, from Big Bear City, CA simply offered her “compliments and gratitude to the people who put together and realized this show. Videos and narration are excellent. It’s like a huge mosaic, in which every single historical event fits exactly in the right place.”

Historyjunkie from Woodstock, Ga perhaps puts it best, describing the documentary as a “must have for teachers,” noting that it “is a great video to show in the classroom as an introduction to ancient history as it moved to modern day. The intermix of ancient and modern throughout the video would keep students captivated.”