Meet our newest faculty member, Dr. Kate M. Burlingham!

Kate Burlingham joins the Department of History as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Burlingham received her Ph.D. and M.A. in History from Rutgers University. While her main focus is in U.S. History, Dr. Burlingham’s research interests also include various aspects of International and Global History. She is particularly interested in African history. Dr. Burlingham spent much of 2004-2007 conducting research for her project in South Africa, Angola, and Portugal and 2008-2009 living, researching, and writing in Portugal and France. In 2007, she was an Africanist Doctoral fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She has received numerous other grants and fellowships in support of her research and writing from foundations and organizations in the United States and Portugal. Her current project is a global history of U.S. foreign relations in Africa looking specifically at the history of Congregational missionaries in Angola. She has developed and taught classes about U.S. foreign relations and international perceptions/reactions to the Cold War.

The Return of Pinto da Costa: Reinventing the African Left in a Neo-Liberalist Age

The History Department is delighted to announce its third annual colloquium for graduate students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the department. The evening will include food, drinks, and a lively discussion of Professor Steve Jobbitt’s study of the life and politics of Manuel Pinto da Costa, the recently re-elected president of the West African nation of São Tomé and Príncipe. Trained as a Marxist economist, Pinto da Costa served as São Tomé and Príncipe’s first president after the country won its independence from Portugal in 1975, and was in power in 1990 when the transition was made from a one-party socialist state to a multi-party democracy. Though forced in the 1980s to abandon the language of socialism, Pinto da Costa has devoted himself throughout his political and academic career to solving the problems of poverty and underdevelopment that have plagued his country since decolonization. His recent re-election opens up an opportunity to reflect on how the African left has sought to reinvent itself in order to combat the social, political, and economic crises that neoliberalism and globalization have brought to this tiny African nation since the 1980s. Do not miss this opportunity to mingle with friends, colleagues, and fellow students for an evening of intelligent conversation!
"My Adventures in Television," by Jonathan Markley

A History Channel documentary called "History of the World in Two Hours" is tentatively scheduled to screen on October 2 and for the first time in my career I’m one of the “talking heads.” It began when I was contacted by the producers early last summer and invited to drive out to a sound studio in Van Nuys. Most of the other “heads” had been interviewed at outside locations, but they’d had issues with background noise, so wanted to do mine in a controlled environment. They gave me a general idea of the kinds of questions they would be asking, but I had very little idea of what it would be like. The studio didn’t look like much from the outside, and inside it resembled nothing so much as a large padded cell in a lunatic asylum. In the middle of the room was a chair with a white screen behind it; large spot-lights focused on the chair. Aside from the camera hidden in the shadows, that was the only thing in the room. It looked and felt like I was being interrogated by the FBI in a cheap crime thriller. The interviewer sat behind the darkened camera where I couldn’t see him, and I had to respond to his questions in a manner that didn’t seem like I was talking to anyone (even someone I couldn’t see hidden in the shadows!), because the questions themselves would never be heard in the final production. A few times they asked me to stop and start over, and I was also allowed to say, “let me try that again.”

More than a year later, they got in touch with me and asked me if I’d look at the rough cuts to check for any mistakes. Even in the rough version, I was absolutely delighted with the final production which has spectacular graphics, wonderfully dramatic music, live action scenes, and absolutely no hint that I’m in a padded cell. My own appearances are (I’m glad to say) not too embarrassing, and even at the points where they edited out some of my words (which was done so smoothly that even I barely noticed), I can’t find anything to complain about. I was very happy that in one section where I did have a little advice, the producer was really open to suggestions, and came back to me several times with alternative wording. All in all, the whole thing was a very positive experience, and I’m going to be using a recording of the show for the rest of my career, I’m sure!

History on the Move!
Checking in with Dr. George Giacumakis, Professor of History & Director Emeritus of the CSUF Irvine Campus

Besides continuing to teach several history courses at the Irvine Campus after retirement in 2008, George and colleagues have developed the Museum of Biblical & Sacred Writings: A Center for Bringing the Ancient World to Light in Irvine, CA. The Museum was started in temporary facilities on the former El Toro Marine Base, while Cal State Fullerton was still on the Base facilities. It has now moved to facilities in the Irvine Spectrum. It has primarily focused thus far on Dead Sea Scrolls in facsimile, Torah Scrolls, archaeological & inscription classes for all ages, and archaeological artifacts for kids to handle.

Besides exhibits and classes, the Museum sponsors History on the Move Study Tours. This past summer (last two weeks of June) George and Joan Giacumakis led a group of people to the Aegean World, traveling in Western Turkey, northern Greece, and Crete. Next summer (last two weeks of June and first part of July, 2012) there will be a History on the Move Study Tour to Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and Germany.

More details to follow in the next History Newsletter. What fun!
Staff Profile: Penni Wunderlich Sheppard

Penni has been in the History Department for 29 years. If you don’t know who Penni is, she is the Graduate Secretary, and she has a very small, very cozy, office that adjoins the main office.

Penni was hired in 1982 as the Undergraduate Secretary. You might say that she has seen a lot of “history” in the History Department. She notes that faculty and staff didn’t even have computers then. Syllabi and exams were typed on correcting Selectric II typewriters. Duplication was done on a ditto machine, and that meant that the office staff got purple ink all over their hands, and sometimes on their clothes. As Penni notes, she is “glad those days are long gone.”

Penni worked as Undergraduate Secretary for three years; when the position for Graduate Secretary became available, she applied and was hired. She has worked as Graduate Secretary for 26 years, with seven different Graduate Advisors, and has seen many, many M.A. students earn their diplomas. Penni truly enjoys having “a lot of one-on-one contact with our students.” Students should know that Penni has an “open door policy,” and encourages graduate students to stop by if they need help with anything, or even just to say “hi.”

Penny and her husband love to travel, either by plane, train, or car. She’s looking forward to doing just that in retirement. She also loves to sit back and do the two things that she loves most: writing and reading!

Update on the 2012 Welebaethan

The students of History 494, (History and Editing) have just finished their review of submitted articles. The faculty director of the CSUF History Department’s journal, Dr. Wendy Elliot-Scheinberg, would like to THANK those faculty members who reviewed submissions. Special kudos to those who returned their scores in time for the meeting on Monday.

A Class Action Public History Exhibit Opens

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni affiliated with the History Department and the Center for Oral and Public History have worked with the Museum of Teaching and Learning, OC Parks, and other partners to produce an exhibit titled A Class Action: The Grassroots Struggle for School Desegregation in California.

The exhibit, which opened in September 2011, focuses on a lawsuit that five Mexican American families brought against four Orange County school districts, all of which maintained segregated “Mexican schools” in the 1940s.

The case, Mendez et al. v. Westminster School District et al., became the most important legal challenge to segregated education in the U.S. prior to Brown v. Board of Education.

Dr. Ray Rast curated the exhibit with assistance from Amanda Tewes (M.A., 2010), Luis Fernandez (M.A., 2010), Maria Quintero (B.A., 2011), and almost seventy students enrolled in four different classes.

The exhibit runs at the Old Courthouse Museum in Santa Ana through May 2012.

“What I Did on My Summer Vacation”

Professor Gordon Morris Bakken ventured into the Ruby Valley of Montana to interview William Tate and Donna Tate McDonald regarding big game outfitting for his book, A Buck in the Truck, which is forthcoming from the University of New Mexico Press. William Tate established the outfitting business on Tate’s Upper Canyon Ranch in the 1950s and Donna and her husband, Jake, continue the family business. Donna was the first woman president of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association.

Bakken also rode shotgun for his son and family to Big Timber and did some rock chuck hunting on Mike and Mona Lovely’s ranch near McLeod.

The summer of 2011 was filled with scholarly opportunities. Among the other ways Dr. Bakken kept busy...he put finishing touches on a chapter of the history of the California Supreme Court, wrote two book reviews, and three chapters of a book on twentieth-century California. He also read 35 books for the Turrentine Jackson Book Prize committee, dissertations for the Westerners International Prize committee, and books for the H & SS Dean’s First Book Prize!
Without paleography skills, you might not want to try to figure out something like this document, the examination of James Machary regarding his enforced service with the Spanish Armada, dated 29 December 1588! From the British National Archives online tutorial, at: http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/

Graduate Paleography Workshop

Professor Gayle K. Brunelle is offering a new paleography workshop for graduate students and advanced undergraduates interested in learning how to read late medieval and early modern handwriting. The workshop is small, and has attracted history majors but also non-history majors interested in reading old handwriting for other reasons, in this case because they belong to a club dedicated to swordsmanship and want to read late medieval German manuals on the topic. Go figure! So far, Brunelle and her students are having a good time wrestling with documents as diverse as fighting manuals, commercial contracts, insurance disputes, and, soon to come, a document from the Spanish Inquisition.

Paleography is an essential skill for anyone seeking to study history prior to the modern era, when increasingly documents began to be typewritten or printed. Although medieval handwriting also offers challenges – differences of grammar, spelling and vocabulary between older forms of languages and modern usage, for example – professional scribes wrote most medieval documents, meaning that the handwriting is actually more readable to modern students in most cases than is later handwriting from the early modern era. Beginning in the 15th century, with the gradual spread of literacy, handwriting began to deteriorate as more documents were being produced and more of them were written by literate people who knew how to write, but were not trained scribes and therefore did not necessarily write well – like today’s students!

Paleography is hard work, but also fun. It requires cultivating skills and parts of the brain historians don’t ordinarily use in their historical scholarship, because it is more of an art than a science. First and foremost, paleography is about “seeing” documents in a new way, where the writing that communicates ideas, normally “invisible” to readers, is at the heart of the enterprise. Students learn to see document as artifacts to be deciphered rather than merely as texts to be read. So learning paleography is best approached as a puzzle, like a crossword puzzle, where students first learn to recognize individual words and letters through practice, and then figure out partly by trial and error and partly by inference and interpolation what the rest of the document says. Brunelle states that she will offer the workshop in future semesters as long as there is interest, so students, history majors or otherwise, who want to read old documents, or who just like solving puzzles and are up for a challenge, should contact her. Donations of chocolate are not required but are much appreciated!

The History Internship Program

An internship can be a valuable addition to any student’s coursework. Internships – often undertaken in history museums, at historic sites, or with government agencies – offer opportunities to explore career fields while gaining hands-on experience. The History Department’s internship program has grown tremendously in recent years. In 2008, Ben Cawthra and I began to build the internship program as part of our work with the Center for Oral and Public History. We reached out to potential host sites in Orange County and beyond, and we began promoting the benefits of internships among the department’s graduate and undergraduate students. In the spring of 2008, we supervised 19 internships. This year, we are on pace for 52 internships!

Students have undertaken internships at sites such as the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, the Mission Inn in Riverside, the Nixon Library and Museum, Crystal Cove State Park, the Santa Ana Public Library, and the Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum. Students who have ventured farther have landed internships at the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis, the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, Harper’s Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia, and the Royal Air Force Museum in London. With Cora Granata stepping into the role of internship coordinator in 2012, the breadth of host sites will only continue to grow.

Ray Rast
Faculty Publications and Presentations

- Dr. Benjamin Cawthra is celebrating the publication of his book *Blue Notes in Black and White* (University of Chicago Press, 2011).

- Dr. Amy Essington published an entry on the Pacific Coast League in the *Encyclopedia of North American Sport*. She presented “The West Coast Baseball Association: The Negro Leagues of the West and the Social Change of World War II” at the *North American Society for Sport History Annual Conference* and chaired the session “Perspectives from the Ground: A Roundtable on Finding Jobs in and out of Academia” at the *Western Association of Women Historians Annual Conference*.

- Dr. Natalie Fousekis is celebrating the publication of her book, *Demanding Child Care: Women’s Activism and the Politics of Welfare, 1940-1971* (University of Illinois Press, 2011).


- Dr. Jessica Stern published “A Key into The Blody Tenent of Persecution: Roger Williams, the Pequot War, and the Origins of Toleration in America,” *Early American Studies* 9, no. 3 (September 2011): 576-616.


- Dr. Ronald Rietveld, longtime member of our department, delivered a lecture on California’s role in the Civil War on Wednesday, September 7, at the Fullerton Arboretum pavilion.


Alumni News

Ms. Danielle Moon’s *Daily Life of Women during the Civil Rights Era* was published on August 3, 2011, by Greenwood Press. Danielle also is the author of “Female Politicians” in Gordon Morris Bakken, ed., *Icons of the American West*, vol. 2, Greenwood Press, 2008. Danielle is a B.A., M.A. graduate in History of CU and currently Director of Special Collections at San Jose State University.

Phi Alpha Theta: Theta-Pi Chapter

The best part about being the Phi Alpha Theta president was not the prestige, or the power (of which there was little), or even the nice little blurb I was able to put on my c.v. The best part was, and still is, members and faculty advisors of the Theta-Pi chapter. I have rarely worked with more selfless and dedicated people. There was an event and a fundraiser at least every month it seemed, and we never lacked for volunteers. The members of Theta-Pi showed up in force for our Gracio’s fundraiser as well, and our new T-Shirt design was and still is awesome! The social events were no different. We destroyed the Geography department in a friendly kickball game. The competitive spirit of many of our members was in full gear for that game, and we had a blast. There were bowling nights, pool parties, Christmas parties, and even Oktoberfest. We also organized workshops on getting into Ph.D. programs, being a better writer (at which I obviously did not take enough notes), and had both faculty and students present their research. The amazing thing is that I had little to do with many of the events that took place. They were planned by various members of the Theta-Pi chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. I guess what I am saying is that if you have not joined Phi Alpha Theta, you need to. Not just because it is a lot of fun, which it is, but because Phi Alpha Theta provides a forum for you to make lifelong friends. I loved being president of Phi Alpha Theta because of the people who surrounded me. It is to all those people, and I hope you know who you are, that I would like to say thank you. You all made me look really good.

David Kloster, past president, Theta-Pi Chapter, Phi Alpha Theta.

Learning Latin the CSUF Way with Dr. Jochen Burgtorf!

Pursuing a knowledge of Latin is nearly essential for the truly educated historian. The practical matter of being able to read Latin for classical, medieval, early modern and legal historians should go without saying. As a language can act as a window upon a people and their viewpoints and assumptions, Latin can increase a scholar’s understanding of the world they are studying. Learning Latin can also assist with learning other Romance languages, such as Spanish, French or Italian, since the grammatical forms and vocabulary are very similar.

I am personally taking Latin, for the second time, for all of the reasons above. I study medieval Europe, and so Latin can grant me access to sources that haven’t been translated. I have also studied the Roman Republic and Empire, and should I choose to pursue that interest, I could do so knowing I can speak the language of the Romans. Latin has helped me sharpen my knowledge of French and assist with picking up some Italian and Spanish. Who knew that studying Latin could have a positive impact on working at a catering company!

Chelsea Thompson
New Birth of Freedom at the Fullerton Arboretum

The latest exhibition created by CSUF history students at the Fullerton Arboretum’s Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum opened April 27, 2011.

New Birth of Freedom: Civil War to Civil Rights in California examines California’s roles in the Civil War and the civil rights movement and commemorates the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and the fiftieth anniversary of the Freedom Rides. It also makes a thematic connection between the two eras.

Dr. Benjamin Cawthra served as project director for the Center for Oral and Public History. Master’s history students Michelle Antene (Civil War) and Bethany Girod (Civil Rights) were associate curators. Becki Hartke of the Arboretum designed the exhibition, which had hosted more than 2,500 visitors by the end of summer.

The exhibition will be open through February 2012. Hours: Thursdays 10-2; Saturdays and Sundays noon -4. It is free to the public.