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# History Newsletter

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Editor: Douglas Dodd - Production Editor: Charlotte Ziegler— For current information, visit our website at [www.csub.edu/history/](http://www.csub.edu/history/); for history program forms, schedules, and information, see the rack outside the History Department Office.

## FROM THE CHAIR by Douglas Dodd



Spring is always a time for farewells as we say goodbye to our graduating seniors and graduate students who have completed their degrees. This year, it's also a time for farewells to two members of the History Department faculty.

After 35 years in the History Department, Professor Miriam Raub Vivian is retiring. The university has acknowledged her years of service by awarding her emerita status. She will enter the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) and will continue to teach two courses per semester.

Professor Alicia Rodriguez ('89) is leaving the department to become the Dean of CSUB's College of Arts and Humanities. She has served as interim Dean since January 2024. Professor Rodriguez joined the History department in 1998.

We wish our new graduates—and our colleagues—the best as they enter new stages of their journeys.

## OUTSTANDING GRADUATING SENIOR - GUADALUPE HERRERA

**Guadalupe Herrera** has an outstanding academic record at CSUB: an overall 3.93 GPA. This includes a solid A in our rigorous Historical Writing course. Her stellar record also earned her membership in Phi Alpha Theta. Her paper she wrote for Historical Writing—Coca-Cola's Takeover of Chiapas, Mexico: 1994-the Present—led to an invitation to present this in Historian's Craft as part of a panel of student researchers and also resulted in her winning a Second-Place Vivian Prize award this past fall.

[See Herrera p. 25](#)

## OUTSTANDING GRADUATE—RICARDO GONÉ

As **Ricardo Goné** is a distinguished master's student at CSU Bakersfield, recognized with the Outstanding Graduate award in the history program. Known for his exemplary academic performance and inquisitive nature, Ricardo enriches classroom discussions with insightful questions and profound critical thinking skills.

[See Goné on p. 25](#)

## MARSHALL & ETTA MASTERS GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD – KAYLA KIEFER



Across the wide range of History courses she has taken at CSUB, **Kayla Kiefer** has proven herself time and time again as a natural historian with a keen eye for finding gaps in current scholarships. Her research projects are original and speak to real-world issues

affecting Kern County today.

[See Kiefer on p. 25](#)

## MARSHALL & ETTA MASTERS GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD – DANIEL WARE



**Daniel Ware** calls Bakersfield, California, his home. From a young age, his deep interest in history and science drew him to study anthropology at CSUB with archaeology as his primary focus. After graduation, Daniel worked as a contract archaeologist across the American West, exploring fragments of the human past.

[See Ware on p. 25](#)

## CLIO AWARD—NOAH ROBERTS



**Noah Roberts** is a bright spirit all around. He's a natural leader who brings generative energy into any learning space. He has a knack for propelling conversations forward by actively listening to the dialogue at hand, finding ways to connect and build on his classmates' ideas, and allowing people to feel heard.

[See Roberts on p. 25](#)

## JAMES H. GEORGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AVA KLASSEN



A double major in History and Sociology, **Ava Klassen** has excelled in her CSUB History classes due to her excellent writing skills and insightful classroom comments. With a 3.82 GPA in the History major, she has successfully navigated a wide variety of courses, tackling topics like California History, Afro-Asianism,

Propaganda in History, and Mexican-European Connections.

[See Klassen on p. 25](#)

## HISTORY FORUM

by Kiran Garcha

After a brief hiatus in fall 2024, the History Forum speaker series



returned with an impressive line-up of events this past February. To kick off this year's schedule, our very own Dr. Moisés Acuña-Gurrola delivered an insightful snapshot into his current research project, which traces the dynamic life of local communist labor organizer, Loretta Adams. The talk, titled *"Our 300LBS of Dynamite" Loretta Adams and Deal Politics in Kern County, 1935-1940*, offered a

unique glimpse into a paradoxical figure. Upon being sent to Bakersfield by the Communist Party in 1935, the Missouri-born Adams quickly developed a notorious reputation among local law enforcement and large-scale employers through her community-based push for workers' rights. Through coalitions with the Workers Alliance, the skilled orator defended local working-class residents by delivering speeches, running communist education classes, and fighting against evictions. And just as her activism caught the eye of local police officials, so too did it garner a local following of allies, media coverage, and a few impressive honorific titles including "Our 300lbs of Dynamite" and the "Red Angel". Despite the sizeable contemporary footprint she left on Kern County, her record in the historical archive has proven to be elusive at best! Dr. Acuña-Gurrola's presentation chronicled his journey navigating the challenges of archival voids, as he uncovered some of the creative and unconventional strategies that he used to track down evidence of Adams's work, including his use of online marketplaces like ebay. With the help of CSUB processing archivist, Donato Cruz, Dr. Acuña-Gurrola acquired a framed newspaper article with one of only a few known photographic images of the labor organizer. Through his engagement with newspaper archives, New Deal government records, and union documents, Dr. Mo has cobbled together an impressive biography of a woman who seemingly wanted future historians to work hard for their money!

We thank our colleague for his captivating and very well-attended presentation. Keep an eye out for Dr. Acuña-Gurrola's forthcoming article on the local labor leader of many names (and varied spellings of the same name)!

[See Forum on p. 4](#)

## Research Paper Competition Winners

by Miriam Raub Vivian

We are grateful to our department benefactors who make our scholarship awards possible:

*Professor Emeritus James George* (since 2005) and alumnus **Mathew Zaninovich** (since 2010). Another long-time patron of our program is alumnus **Peter Wonderly**, who has funded our annual spring research paper awards, the **J.R. Wonderly Memorial Awards**, since 1995. Finally, we the newest addition to this group of benefactors is *Professor Emerita Miriam Raub Vivian* (since 2024), who has funded the department's newest award, the Vivian Prize, an annual fall research paper award competition.

### J.R. Wonderly Memorial Award (Spring 2025):

**David Arnold**

A State on Horseback: How the Mongol Empire Almost Conquered the East Asian World

### Vivian Prize (Fall 2024):

**First place: Kayla Kiefer**

Sowing Seeds for Kern County's Sexual Health: Conservative Opposition to Public-School Sex Education Programs 1960s – 1980s.

**Second place: Guadalupe Herrera**

Coca-Cola's Takeover of Chiapas, Mexico.

### Student Research Scholars Winners

Four History students, under the mentorship of faculty members, have been recognized as CSUB Student Research Scholars for 2025-26.

**Kathryn Gontijo-Doucette** (Dr. Allen)

**Luc Burdick** (Dr. Mo)

**Kayla Kiefer** (Dr. Garcha)

**Daniel Ware** (Dr. Dhada)

Congratulations to these hardworking students on their research success!

## M.A. Program

In the Spring of 2025, Jaztyn Greer and Robert Hunt passed their comprehensive exams to earn their M.A. degrees. Alongside Cy Williams they participated in the Spring 2025 Graduate commencement.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, 16 students entered the program, fully or conditionally. The program is now offering three graduate seminars a semester and has benefited from the enthusiasm of both faculty and students.

The deadline for Spring 2026 admission is November 3, 2025. Please contact Professor Stephen Allen at [sallen13@csub.edu](mailto:sallen13@csub.edu) with any questions about applying to the program.

## New History Courses

The History Department has added two new courses to the curriculum. Both will be taught in fall 2025.

### **HIST 3408: Afro-Asianism: Anti-Racism in Global History- Professor John Chen**

This course was offered once before but has now been reworked as a GE-JYDR as well as History course (“Asia” region or “Identities” theme). It examines the history of anticolonialism and cross-cultural solidarity from the perspectives of ordinary people. It covers and connects the following topics: common colonial experiences, African and Asian diasporas, Pan-African and Pan-Asian movements, African and Asian feminism, the Bandung Conference, theories of revolution, the Algerian War of Independence, the U.S. War in Vietnam, Palestinian Third Worldism, the U.S. Civil Rights movement, African American visitors to China, China-Africa and China-Middle East relations, and others. It views “global history” as both a stage of action and a narrative people sought to change.

### **History 4548: The History of War Professor Robert Frakes**

This course will count as an Area C upper-division GE course. The course was previously offered in spring 2025 as HIST 4770. It will count for Europe as a Region, for STEM as a Theme, and will also be a pre-1700 course.

## In Memoriam: Professor Gerald Stanley (1941-2024)



The department has learned that former CSUB history professor Gerald (Jerry) Stanley passed away last year. Born in Michigan in 1941, Stanley did his undergraduate work at Chico State before earning a Ph.D. in history from the University of Arizona in 1973. His dissertation was “The Republican Party in California, 1856-1868.” Stanley joined the CSUB history department in the fall of 1973, where he taught courses in U.S. history, as well as courses on California, the American West, and Native American history.

He retired around 1995 and moved to Wofford Heights, in the Kern River Valley. Stanley wrote several books of juvenile non-fiction, which addressed historical topics. The first—and by far the best known—was *Children of the Dust Bowl: The True Story of the School at Weedpatch Camp* (New York: Crown Publishers, 1992). The book recounted the efforts of Leo B. Hart to establish a school to serve the children of the Farm Security Administration’s camp near Arvin. The camp, which housed migrant families from the southern Plains states during the Great Depression, became the model for the “government camp” in John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*.

After the success of *Children of the Dust Bowl*, several books followed: *I Am an American: A True Story of Japanese Internment* (Crown, 1994); *Big Annie of Calumet: A True Story of the Industrial Revolution* (Crown, 1996); *Digger: The Tragic Fate of the California Indian from the Missions to the Gold Rush* (Crown, 1997); *Frontier Merchants: Lionel and Barron Jacobs and the Jewish Pioneers Who Settled the West* (1998); *Hurry Freedom: African Americans in Gold Rush California* (Crown, 2000); and *Cowboys and Longhorns* (Crown, 2003).



Forum cont. from p. 2



**CSU BAKERSFIELD HISTORY FORUM**

**BLACK, NATIVE, AND JAPANESE BOTANICAL LABORERS HIDDEN IN THE ARCHIVE. FROM 18TH-CENTURY MEXICO CITY TO CALIFORNIA TODAY**

**Talk Description:** Dr. Anna Toledano (Executive Director, Los Altos History Museum) will discuss the Spanish naturalists who introduced the Viceregal Botanical Garden of New Spain in Mexico City in 1788 to advance agriculture, manufacturing, and medicine, while also cultivating agents of empire. Rather than build on the robust tradition of American botany, the Spanish appropriated this space, employing Creole students and servant workers of European local botanical knowledge. Dr. Toledano will apply these techniques to her current work on Japanese apricot orchardists within her small local history museum collection, demonstrating practical approaches for recovering marginalized voices.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 27**  
5:30 P.M.  
December Reading Room  
Walter Stern Library

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
CSU BAKERSFIELD

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**DR. ANNA TOLEDANO**  
Executive Director,  
Los Altos History Museum

**Co-Sponsors:**  
This event is co-sponsored by the  
CSUB Department of History, the ASI  
Instructionally Related Activities Program

After On March 27, Dr. Anna Toledano provided a seamless transition to our second forum of the year, with her talk, titled *Black, Native, and Japanese Botanical Laborers Hidden in the Archive, from 18th-Century Mexico City to California Today*. Continuing this year's programmatic focus on the methodological challenges of archival silences, Dr. Toledano discussed how Spanish naturalists established the Viceregal Botanical Garden of New Spain in Mexico City in 1788 to advance agriculture,

manufacturing, and medicine, while also cultivating agents of empire. Sharing a dynamic collection of primary sources images, she highlighted the ways in which the Spanish appropriated the space, employing Creole students and servant workers to Europeanize local botanical knowledge rather than build on the robust tradition of American botany. During the first portion of her presentation, she revisited some of the archival materials and methodologies she used during her graduate research to uncover the additional contributions of Black and Indigenous laborers, whose roles remain obscured in official accounts. She then applied these techniques to her current work on Japanese apricot orchardists within her current local history museum collection, demonstrating practical approaches for recovering marginalized voices. Coming to CSUB from the Bay Area, Dr. Toledano is the Executive Director of the Los Altos History Museum and serves as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of the History of Collections*. She holds a PhD in History of Science from Stanford University and an MA in Museum Anthropology from Columbia University. The History Forum organizing Committee, CSUB's Department of History, and the broader CSUB community thanks Dr. Toledano for sharing her time and research with us, and for shedding light on one of many History-centered careers outside of the traditional university classroom!

History Forum co-Chairs, Dr. Kate Mulry and Dr. Kiran Garcha would like to thank students, staff, faculty, and friends of CSUB for their continued support of this cherished department program. Please stay tuned for details about our 2025-2026 event schedule!

The History Club decided to try something new and establish a theme for the semester. Officers decided upon a 1920s theme, and formulated events focused on the period.

**February 13** – First general meeting to introduce officers and club goals for the semester. Attendees enjoyed pizza and competed in a Kahoot game with 1920s trivia.

February 28 – Outdoor movie screening of *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror* (1922) by F.W. Murnau. Attendees enjoyed Jersey Mike's sandwiches and an insightful mini lecture from Dr. Wempe regarding the film's historical context and influences.

**March 19** – Fundraiser selling *conchas* and hot chocolate to raise money for the club. Successfully grossed \$135 for club activities.

**March 27** – Mini Discussion with Dr. Allen about 1920s Mexico. Attendees enjoyed *conchas* and hot chocolate while listening to Dr. Allen and looking the through books he provided.

**April 10** – Fundraiser selling new and used books for a minimum \$1 donation. Successfully grossed \$185 for club activities.

**April 24** – Trivia Night centered around 1920s topics. Attendees enjoyed pizza and wings while competing against opposing teams.

**May 5** – Coloring Book event to unwind and relax before heading into finals.

The History Club has elected officers for 2025-26:

- Kayla Kiefer**, President
- Sherlyn Hernandez**, Vice President
- Daniela Morales**, Secretary
- Anela Garcia**, Treasurer
- Mariana Abad**, Public Relations

If you are interested in joining the club next year, please email [history@csub.edu](mailto:history@csub.edu) or direct message the Instagram account [@csub.historyclub](https://www.instagram.com/csub.historyclub).

## Remarks on Emerita Award for Miriam Raub Vivian

May 5, 2025

By Douglas Dodd



Miriam Raub Vivian has served in the Department of History for 35 years. From her arrival on campus in fall 1990 to her retirement in spring 2025 she has made substantial and meritorious teaching and service contributions to the university.

Dr. Vivian has put her teaching at the forefront. She has regularly revised and updated her courses to keep them current and fresh. She has developed innovative student assignments that allow students to apply and demonstrate the knowledge they have gained in her courses while also allowing them to express that knowledge creatively. For example, assignments in her Greek history class do a group assignment on Plato's *Apology* in which they develop in-class presentations that have taken a variety of interesting forms, from the front page of an imagined Athenian newspaper, to a "Rate My Professor" page for Socrates. Dr. Vivian has also been a strong proponent of student writing. She taught the Historical Writing course innumerable times, contributes a writing column to the department newsletter, and helped establish student writing prize competitions. The first of these competitions, the J.R. Wonderly Memorial Award, began in 1994. More recently, she founded (and funded!) the Vivian Prize research paper competition, which began in fall semester 2024.

Service, however, is where Dr. Vivian has made her most significant contributions. She served four 3-year terms as history department chair (2002-2008; 2017-2023). She also served as Director of the Public History Institute, from its inception in 2009 to 2025. In that capacity, she led the organizing of a major 2014 conference commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Under her leadership, PHI has produced a wide variety of programs including conferences, panels, guest speakers, and walking tours. These events have built

connections between CSUB and the community and have helped bring attention to local and regional history.

In the history department she has—for 35 years—served as faculty advisor to the CSUB chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (PAT), the national honor society for history. She has recruited students to join PAT and present papers at the annual PAT Southern California Regional Student Paper Conference. She has organized CSUB's hosting of the regional conference four times, including this year. As PAT advisor she also organizes the annual PAT induction ceremony at the department's annual awards ceremony. Dr. Vivian also served as a member of the PAT National Council from 2012-14.

Dr. Vivian was also an organizer of the History Field Trip Committee, which organizes history-oriented field trips each semester. Recent trips have included Cesar Chavez National Monument, Col. Allensworth State Historic Park, Fort Tejon State Historic Park, and the Getty Villa. Prior to the formation of the field trip committee, she organized some major field trips for the department, including Yosemite National Park (2012) and Manzanar National Historic Site (2019).

For her department colleagues, one of the most important forms of service has been her mentoring and guidance, especially through the retention, tenure, and promotion process. She has been strongly committed to ensuring that junior faculty understand the process and are well-positioned for each review. Her day-to-day presence and open door have helped to reassure new faculty navigating the university and its processes. Dr. Kate Mulry writes of Dr. Vivian: "While serving as the chair, she welcomed and mentored new members of the department. She made a special point of inviting tenure-track professors to coffees and meals at least once during each academic year to hear their questions and concerns in a more informal and welcoming manner. In this way, she helped shepherd several new members of the department through their early years in the department."

Beyond the Department of History, Dr. Vivian has also served CSUB more broadly. She has served on RTP committees for departments outside history and has served on numerous campus search committees for positions such as Library Dean (2020-22), Arts & Humanities Dean (2017), Vice President for Undergraduate Studies (2013), and Library Archivist (2013). She also served on the University Review Committee (URC, 2009-11), the Academic Affairs Committee (1995-1999, 2008-2010), and the Academic Senate (1996-1999), where she was also a member of the Executive Committee.

For her meritorious teaching and service contributions over 35 years at CSUB, the Department of History is pleased to congratulate her on achieving Emerita status.

## FACULTY NEWS

In February 2025, **Professor Moisés Acuña-Gurrola (Dr. Mo)** presented his ongoing research, “‘Our 300 lbs. of Dynamite’: Loretta Adams and New Deal Politics in Kern County, 1935-1940” for the History Forum in the Dezember Reading Room where students, faculty members, and members of the local community learned about the Workers’ Alliance and the Communist Party’s presence in Bakersfield in the 1930s.

**Dr. Mo** has published his article, “The Giant Arrives in South Texas: The Molina Civic Association’s Fight for School Integration in Corpus Christi, Texas, 1954-1970” in the Spring 2025 issue of the *Journal of Southern History*. His article examines how an interracial political coalition set the basis for a successful effort to integrate students, teachers, and administrators in the West Oso Independent School District in Corpus Christi, Texas. In the Summer of 2025, Dr. Mo will present his research to the community at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. Because of his work telling the school district’s history, he will be inducted into the West Oso High School Hall of Fame in June 2025.

**Dr. Mo** has been awarded Article 20.37 Assigned Time for Exceptional Service to Students in the Fall 2025 for his service as the faculty advisor for the History Club, Paintball Club, and Skateboarding Club.

**Professor Stephen Allen** and CSUB **Professor Emerita Cliona Murphy** presented at the Southeastern Conference of Latin American Studies Conference in Mexico City on April 24, 2025. As part of the panel “Soldiers, Writers, Laborers, Slaveholders: The Irish in Cuba and Mexico,” Professor Murphy presented “Impressions of Nineteenth-Century Mexico through the Irish Gaze,” while Professor Allen presented “Fighting Mexico, then Framing It: The Careers of James Shields and Mayne Reid after the U.S. Intervention of 1846-48.”

**Professor John Chen** was invited to speak at the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Annual Middle East Studies Program Conference held on April 10, attended by over fifty students and faculty and featuring eight other speakers. The theme of this year’s conference was “the global Middle East.” Prof. Chen’s presentation, based on a chapter of his book-in-progress, was titled “The Uyghur-Chinese Muslim Struggle for Arab Public Opinion in Cairo, 1931-1945.” The talk examined the ways in which KMT-supported Chinese Muslim scholars in Cairo shifted the rhetoric about Uyghur politics and history in the Cairo-based Arabic press, replacing calls for Islamic solidarity and Uyghur self-determination with an ostensibly depoliticized narrative in which Xinjiang and its peoples belonged uncontroversially to China. This research reveals how the modern Middle East influenced Uyghur and Chinese Muslim identities and became a focus of China’s nation-building politics.

**Professor Chen** is also continuing work on another collaborative project, a collection of translated primary sources on Islamic history in China, to be published by Columbia University Press

A collaboration on global migration history to which **Professor Chen** has contributed a chapter is in the final editing stages with Columbia University Press. The chapter is titled “Envisioning a ‘Far Eastern Islamic Federation’: Al-Azhar and Asian Muslim Regionalism before Bandung, 1930-1955.”

**Professor Chen** taught two new courses this year, both of which produced stimulating discussions and excellent student work: HIST 4480: Propaganda and History and HIST 4460: The Indian Ocean in World History.

**Professor Dhada** and his team of specialists in sound archive specialists, Dr Sandra Araujo, Classical University of Lisbon and Dr Andre Granjo, ethnomusicologist at the University of Aveiro, aided by our very own history graduate student Daniel John Ware continued their work in restoration of magnetic ferric oxide tapes. Here are some images of the magnitude of the work they faced when the team got into the archives. The before and after pictures tell a story of what they accomplished. On May 23, Professor Dhada was invited to share the team’s findings with a talk at the nation’s biennale festival attended by members of civil society, budding historians, and members of government. (See more of Prof. Dhada’s works on pg. 22)

In January 2025, **Professor Dodd** peer-reviewed the proposed text for two new roadside historical markers to be installed by the Idaho Department of Transportation and the Idaho State Historical Society.

**Professor Dodd** presented a talk, “From ‘Bountiful’ Waters to ‘A Riverbed Runs Through It’: Diversions, Ditches, and Dams on the Kern River,” for the CSUB Public History Institute panel, “Navigating the Waters of the Kern River: The Struggle to Sustain Wildlife and Recreation,” on April 4, 2025.

**Professor Dodd** reviewed Rand Schenck’s *Forest Under Siege: The Story of Old Growth After Gifford Pinchot* (Pullman, WA: Basalt Books, 2024), for the *Western Historical Quarterly* 56:2 (Summer 2025).  
[See Faculty News p. 19](#)



## STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to the following students on their recent achievements!

History MA student **Gabe Moore** won first place in the Graduate Humanities category at the 2025 CSUB Student Research Conference held on March 7. This is his third consecutive year receiving the award. His presentation titled “Chinese Customs in Kern County: Confronting Local History’s Problematic Discourse, 1870s-1920s.” Based on over two years of original primary source work and informed by theories of Orientalism, it traced curiosity as well as Sinophobic attitudes among Bakersfield’s non-Chinese population toward the queue hairstyle, Lunar New Year celebrations, and funerary and burial practices throughout the era of Exclusion.



**Lily St. Laurent** was a contestant on Jeopardy! this spring. According to Lily, “It’s been a lifelong dream of mine to be on Jeopardy!, and I’m so grateful for the opportunity, along with everyone’s kind words and support. I’m incredibly proud to belong to the Jeopardy! losers club—featuring esteemed members such as Ken Jennings, Neil deGrasse Tyson, and Cliff Clavin.” Congratulations, Lily!

**Elián López Manriquez** has been accepted in the Human Sexuality Studies program at San Francisco State which is among the most competitive in the California State University system. He will begin the program in the fall semester 2025. Congratulations, Elián!

**Jessica Rhodes** has been participating in a program called Cal State DC Scholars through CSU, Fullerton. The program prepares students to apply for spring or summer internships in Washington D.C. by offering resume and cover letter workshops and five orientation sessions about what interns can expect during their time interning in Washington D.C. DC Scholars helps participating students secure internships, but securing an internship still remains extremely competitive, particularly during the summer. This summer, Jessica will be interning with Congressman David Valadao’s office. He represents the 22nd District of California. In this position, Jessica will be on the front lines of constituent calls, running errands for the office, supporting other office staff, filing and organizing documents, updating websites and social media, researching relevant issues, and giving tours of the Capitol to constituents, among many other tasks during her internship. Despite working full time, Jessica will also enroll in a night course through CSUF called “Politics, Culture, and History of Washington DC.” DC Scholars will also plan some activities and events for the internship cohort during their summer stay, including museum visits and a baseball game at Nationals Park. Congratulations, Jessica!

## ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to the following alumni on their recent achievements!

**Katherine Richers** (History minor ’10) is a substitute Instructional Intervention aide for PB-VUSD and has enrolled in the Teaching Credential program at CSUB for Fall 2025. Her goal is a Single Subject credential in English. She earned her MA in English from CSUB in 2016 and her MLIS from the San Jose State iSchool online in 2020. Besides her background in English, she’s grateful for her experiences as a volunteer in the Historical Research Center at the Walter Stiern Library. Majoring in English with a history minor led her to the education field and to writing tutoring and library work. A teaching credential will tie all her endeavors together.

**Lacy Casparis** (now Devora; BA ’11) earned her teaching credential and began teaching 8<sup>th</sup>-grade U.S. History at Lincoln Jr. High School in Taft in 2014. She also teaches a Careers in Technical Education (CTEC) elective that introduces students to different career paths, such as health and nutrition, welding, video game design, cosmetology, and criminology, among others.

**Alicia Rodriguez** (BA ’89) has been appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at California State University, Bakersfield.

**RJ Vasquez** (BA ’22) earned a Master’s of Theological Studies at Harvard Divinity School in Spring 2024. He will enter the Ph.D. program in Religious Studies at Stanford University this fall.

**Ben Zermeno** (MA ’24, BA ’10) is a social science teacher at West High School, where he teaches U.S. history.

**Charley Clark** (BA ’02) began his career as an elementary school teacher. Since then, he has served not only as a teacher but also as an assistant principal, principal, director, and chief administrator of Learning Services. For the past 11 years, he has been the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services in the Fairfax School District and recently completed his doctorate at Fresno State University; his dissertation focused on how early literacy indicators influence future outcomes for English Learners. This spring he taught Classroom Management and Differentiated Instruction (EDEL 5300) for CSUB’s Teacher Education program.

[See Alumni News on p. 12](#)

## PHI ALPHA THETA NEWS

by Miriam Raub Vivian, Psi-Zeta Chapter Advisor

Think you might qualify for Phi Alpha Theta, the **national history honor society**? If so, fill out an application on our dept. webpage ([csub.edu/history](http://csub.edu/history)). You need a minimum 3.1 GPA in four or more **CSUB** history courses. (We count all of them.) If you have only three courses, but earned As in all three, then you may also qualify. Graduate students must have a 3.5 GPA. You may join anytime between now and roughly early April 2026 to be part of the annual spring induction of new members in 2026.

Our big event this year was the annual PAT Regional Student Paper Conference, which we hosted for the fourth time since 1998. This is an all-hands-on-deck type of event, and I appreciate the support of my department colleagues, a few of whom functioned as panel chairs, as well as the tireless efforts of our department administrative support coordinator, Ms. Charlotte Ziegler. **For details and photos, see the accompanying article on the Regional elsewhere in this newsletter.**

To both undergraduates and graduate students: please keep this annual spring conference in mind if you wrote a research paper this past spring OR you'll be writing one this coming fall term. Papers written for Historical Writing and Senior Seminar (and HIST 5030) are especially suitable. If you've earned some form of an A on one of these, please consider submitting it, namely after making revisions based on the instructor's feedback. (There is a limit of 10 pages, but you may pare down a longer paper.) The deadline for submission of papers is usually sometime by late February or early March, as determined by the host campus. Spring 2026's Regional will be hosted by CSU San Marcos, and university travel funds should be available for those presenting. Look for the Call for Papers for the spring 2026 conference early in spring term (if not before). This is a fantastic experience for both undergraduate and graduate students.

At our annual History Department Honors and Awards Reception in late April we recognized department award and scholarship winners, as well as the newest initiates of PAT.



**Congratulations** to our newest PAT members, some of whom are pictured here:

**David Arnold, America Elizabeth Briviesca Montalvo, Sergio Henri Chevalier, Sara Fitzsimons, Kelly Garrison, Jaztyn Greer, Gavin Paul Henry, Guadalupe Herrera, Bailey Mills, Jessica Price, Jessica Rhodes, Noah Roberts, Lily St. Laurent.**

Several of this year's department award winners are also members of Phi Alpha Theta

<b>Guadalupe Herrera</b>	Outstanding Graduating Senior
<b>Noah Roberts</b>	Clio Award
<b>Kayla Kiefer</b>	Marshall and Etta Masters Graduate Scholarship



Ricardo Goné & Dr. Dodd



Ava Klassen & James George



Noah Roberts & Dr. Dodd



Guadalupe Herrera, Kayla Kiefer,  
and Dr. Vivian

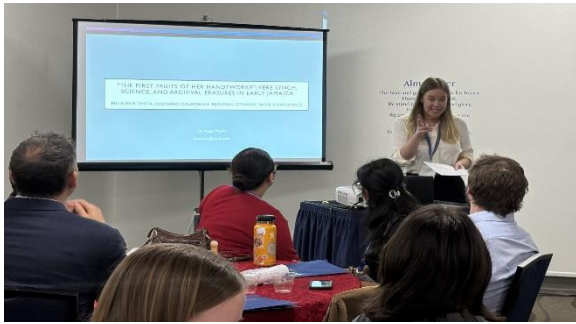
See PAT News p. 10



**Phi Alpha Theta's 2025 SoCal Regional Conference**  
**Hosted at CSUB by our Psi-Zeta Chapter**  
by Miriam Raub Vivian

California State University, Bakersfield, had the honor of hosting this spring's annual SoCal Regional Student Paper Conference for Phi Alpha Theta. As I conclude my 35-year run as the faculty advisor for the Psi-Zeta chapter here at CSUB, I'm so pleased that our chapter had the opportunity to host. (And now, whichever faculty take on this role won't need to worry about hosting a Regional for some years.)

There were a nice group of attendees, roughly 45, representing nine different universities in our region, including three CSU sister campuses (Cal Poly Pomona, CSU Fullerton, and CSU San Marcos), California Lutheran University, Chapman University, Point Loma Nazarene University, University of Nevada, Reno, and University of San Diego. Running from morning until mid-afternoon, the conference featured nine separate paper panels dispersed over three sessions, with each panel chaired by a faculty member. CSUB Profs. **Steve Allen**, **Douglas Dodd**, and **Kate Mulry** each chaired a session.



After our baked potato bar and salad luncheon, Interim Dean and CSUB History Prof. **Dr. Alicia Rodriguez** offered a warm welcome to conference participants. This portion of the conference featured a keynote address by **Dr. Kate L. Mulry**, CSUB Prof. of Early American and Atlantic World History: “the first fruits of her handywork”: Vere Lynch, Science, and Archival Erasures in Early Jamaica.” Her presentation highlighted the important role of women, including enslaved women, in early modern scientific work (particularly on plants), which was, however, credited to men, such as Vere Lynch’s husband, Sir Thomas Lynch, English Governor of Jamaica in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Dr. Mulry’s research on this topic was made possible by a yearlong

sabbatical, which enabled her to conduct extensive archival research and to discover the existence of an additional (4<sup>th</sup>) letter by Vere’s husband that addressed scientific work being conducted in Jamaica and which clearly mentions her work, essentially described as having been written by her in pencil and which he would overwrite in pen. Despite her important work, it was, of course, Thomas Lynch who was inducted into the Royal Society.

The national office’s six book awards were also announced at the luncheon. Six emeriti faculty judged papers, with five of these retired CSUB professors: Drs. **Bob Frakes**, **Jim George**, **Jeanne Harrie**, **Cliona Murphy**, and **Connie Orliski**. There were two awards for graduate student papers and four for undergraduate papers. Among these six paper winners, there were THREE CSUB history students! These are the CSUB winners and judges’ comments:

**The Graduate Paper Winner in 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century U.S. and British History**

**Emma Barnes**, CSUB, for “‘To the Annoyance of Others’: Mental Health in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century America”

“Barnes competently weaves the historiography on mental health in parts of the United States in the nineteenth century with primary sources from the time. In particular, her microhistory of Mr. G. (based on the writings of Dr. Noyes, published in 1888) serves as a mirror to reflect medical opinion of the day on mental illness.”



**The Undergraduate Paper Winner in Recent History of the Americas**

**Kat Gontijo**, CSUB, for “The Dragon Lady’s Triumph: Aileen Eaton’s Legacy in Boxing Promotion in the 1960s”

“Gontijo has undertaken a unique topic. The history of Aileen Eaton’s work in the boxing industry in Southern California, as well as the nation, is a story of successful entrepreneurship, feminist challenge and triumph, and a personal determination to overcome numerous barriers and changing conditions. The paper relies on a mountain of secondary and primary documentation and is a remarkable achievement for an undergraduate.”

## The Undergraduate Paper Winner in Asian and Middle Eastern History

**David Arnold**, CSUB, for “A State on Horseback: How the Mongol Empire Almost Conquered the East Asian World”



“Arnold’s paper stood out for having a clear, well-defined thesis statement that was then systematically demonstrated throughout the exposition. It was strongly written, focused, informative, and a joy to read.”

A handful of CSUB conference participants also provided the following comments, which highlight both its success and the important opportunity it provides our students:

“The Southern California Regional Phi Alpha Theta conference was a great showcase of student research. I found the papers interesting and well-delivered (and one of the papers led me to modify one of my upper-division lectures for the future).” (**Dr. Bob Frakes**)

“Being able to both present my own work and listen to the outstanding research from fellow PAT members was a worthwhile and enriching experience that inspired me to work even harder on my next paper and to look forward to even more such events in the future.” (**Ms. Guadalupe Herrera**)

“Participating in the Phi Alpha Theta regional paper competition strengthened my pride in being a CSUB history student and reinforced my admiration for our department.” (**Ms. Kayla Kiefer**)

“It was a wonderful experience getting to meet and listen to the wide range of presentations from the PAT alumni. It broadened my view of the field and helped me build many academic and professional bridges for the future.” (**Mr. David Arnold**)



CSUB History students, faculty, and Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities.

**PAT News cont. from p. 8**

Thanks to the new **board of officers** willing to serve in 2025-26:

President: **Kathryn Gontijo-Doucette**

Vice-President: **Mounique Flores**

Secretary: **Gavin Henry**

Treasurer: **Samuel Toro**

Historian: **Guadalupe Herrera**

Communications: **Kayla Kiefer**

Awards Reception: **Atlas Tillery**

My thanks to members of our 2024-25 board of officers, whose current terms have ended: **Makayla Crawford**, President; **Ray McArthur**, Vice-President; **Atlas Tillery**, Sec./Treas.; **Nathan Zarate**, Historian.

And finally, after 35 years serving as our chapter advisor, I’m happy to be able to hand over the reins to two exceedingly capable and dedicated colleagues, who will share responsibilities for PAT in the future: **Profs. Steve Allen and Kate Mulry**. My thanks for their willingness to shepherd an organization near and dear to my heart and to carry on our tradition of a strong chapter, one that supports student researchers and their participation in Phi Alpha Theta’s annual Regional Conference.

**Phi Alpha Theta Presidential Address**  
**at the History Department's Annual Honors and Awards Reception**  
by Vice-President Raymond McArthur



Good evening, everyone. It is a genuine honor to stand before you tonight as part of this cherished tradition. I am both humbled and excited to have the opportunity to reflect with you. When Dr. Vivian reached out and offered me the chance to speak, I saw it as a meaningful responsibility. As historians and scholars, we live in constant conversation with the past. We pore over documents, challenge long-held assumptions, wrestle with uncomfortable truths, and confront our own internal biases, all in the hope of better understanding the world and ourselves. This is not easy work. However, it is vital, especially now, given the state of our country and the growing importance of historical literacy and civic understanding.

Over the past year, I have come to appreciate just how powerful our discipline truly is. *History does not live only in textbooks or classrooms; it is woven into our everyday lives.* In our courses, we study revolutions and reforms, leaders and laborers, empires and everyday people. Through it all,

we discover that history is not static. It breathes. It complicates. And it reminds us that progress is never guaranteed, but always possible. It also reminds us that history is not merely the study of the past. We are living history at this very moment. What we do, how we engage with the world around us, and how we choose to remember or forget: all of it contributes to the historical record. In this way, history challenges us to be active participants, not passive observers.

For me, joining Phi Alpha Theta was not just about academic recognition. It was about finding a community: a group of peers, professors, and mentors who are passionate about asking deeper questions, who are not afraid to challenge dominant narratives, and who understand that knowing the past is essential to building a better future. As we celebrate your achievements tonight, I urge you to carry that spirit forward. Bring with you not only your GPAs and accolades, but also your curiosity, your courage, and your critical thinking. Whether you go on to teach, research, serve your community, or blaze your own trail, remember that you are the narrator of your own story. To be a historian is to be both a steward of memory and a challenger of narratives. We often lend our voices to restore the agency of those who came before us. In doing so, we honor not only the past and the present, but also the future we are helping to shape.

It has been an incredible honor to serve as your Vice President this year. I want to extend my full support and best wishes to the incoming officers of Phi Alpha Theta for 2025–2026. Congratulations to everyone being honored tonight, and a heartfelt thank you to the faculty, families, and friends who have supported us along the way. Your encouragement continues to strengthen and sustain this vibrant academic community. It has been a remarkable journey, and the best is yet to come. Thank you.





This will be my last History Department newsletter contribution about our Public History Institute, as I am officially retiring from full-time work and moving to half-time teaching responsibilities. It has been my pleasure to serve as Director of the PHI since 2009, when Interim Dean Ed Sasaki asked me to assist him with the development of a campus institute. Of the options he proposed, it was a no-brainer to pick the one focused on history. I'm proud of the PHI Committee's faithful work in providing

rich programming for the campus and community these last 16 years, including "Oildale and Beyond" (our first project, which was a conference but also showcased musician Merle Haggard and writer Gerald Haslam), a yearlong series of events commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*, a re-examination of the Delano Grape Strike, an exploration of Kern County's past in its sesquicentennial year, a probe into Japanese internment—and its legacy—events related to WWI (especially America's involvement in it), a reflection on the path to the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and (just this past fall) a focus on our Sikh community. Through conferences, invited speakers, panels, films, performances, and exhibits, we've explored our region and encouraged research into it by our students. More recently, we launched a series of lectures under the heading of "The Fight for Civil Rights: Contesting Discrimination in the American West," which has provided speakers highlighting such topics as Allensworth, the Black Panther Party, minority housing districts, and Latino communities.



Integral to this programming has been a steadfast committee member and valued colleague: **Prof. Douglas Dodd**. I'm thus delighted to announce that come fall he will take over as the new PHI Director, which reassures me that the institute conceived by Ed Sasaki many years ago will be in excellent hands going forward. Dr. Dodd will continue to benefit from the experienced PHI

Committee, which has given so much to these efforts. Most of its members have served for several years and are dedicated to its mission to examine, preserve, and increase the understanding of the history of our region. The PHI also works closely with CSUB's Historical Research Center (HRC) and its Director, Mr. Chris Livingston, creating an invaluable symbiosis.

[See PHI on p. 16](#)

[Alumni News cont. from p.7](#)

**Francesk Berisha** (BA '21) has been accepted to the Mundelein Seminary at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Chicago, IL, where he will begin formation for the priesthood.

**Shiloh Logan** (CSUB BA '16 and MA)

While at CSUB Shiloh completed an MA thesis on Mormon religious nationalism in the 19th century. Several years after completing his MA, he applied and was accepted into the PhD program in religious studies at Claremont Graduate University. He started his graduate work in 2021. One of the features of CGU's graduate program that attracted Shiloh was the highly interdisciplinary nature of the program. He selected the History of Christianity and Religion in North America (HCRNA) track. After his third semester, Shiloh decided that he wished to situate his research across the two disciplines of history and religious studies. He reapplied and was accepted as a full-interdisciplinary PhD student in both the history and religion departments. Shiloh reports, "I have been 'living the dream' now for four years. Although the pressures and stresses of the academy take their toll on every student, despite the challenges, I am incredibly happy and grateful for the privilege of getting to do what I love." He has had the opportunity to present at numerous conferences in New York, Colorado, Utah, and California and is working on two papers he hopes to get published in the near future.

Shiloh has also worked in producing and editing podcasts for over 15 years and won an award for co-producing and editing Season 1 of *This Global Latter-day Life*, a public-facing academic podcast of Dr. Caroline Kline's dissertation-turned-book (*Mormon Women at the Crossroads: Global Narratives and the Power of Connectedness*) documenting oral histories of marginalized Latter-day Saint women's voices in Africa, India, and Mexico. Shiloh is also working to build the first oral-history collection focused on religion and politics within the Latter-day Saint community which will be archived at CGU.

**The Aztec Past Rediscovered**  
**A review of Camilla Townsend's *Fifth Sun:***  
***A New History of the Aztecs***  
**for Historical Writing**  
By Eric Medina

When people think of Aztec history, most think of the Spaniards' interpretation of their story, but Camila Townsend in *Fifth Sun: A New History of the Aztecs* aims to show a new perspective. Townsend masterfully sheds the Aztecs in a new light by using Nahuatl language sources, which unlocks a different side of the story, and she mentions that "This book, rooted in the Nahuatl-language annals, offers five revelations about the Aztecs" (6). Through these five revelations, she crafts her thesis that the Aztecs were not just victims of Spanish colonialism but rather they were survivors who were able to preserve their history and adapt despite constant change in their homeland. Townsend challenges old narratives that say that the Aztecs were brutal and sacrificed people due to their religious beliefs, but through sources like the annals, Townsend notes that "the Aztecs' own histories, however, indicate that they understood clearly that political life revolved not around the gods or claims about the gods but around the realities of shifting power imbalances" (7). Through discoveries like this, Townsend offers some historiographical intervention and highlights how the Aztecs were like most other early civilizations and were not just some barbaric culture that was fueled by human sacrifice and got completely wiped out by old world diseases.

The book is organized as a chronological narrative, but with a theme for each chapter. Townsend's narrative is divided into three sections: the first section begins with the Mexica before their contact with the Spanish, covering the rise of the Mexica Empire; the second section discusses the period during the Spanish conquest; and the third section covers the adaptation of indigenous society during colonial rule in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Organizing the book in this way made it easy to follow, since the narrative was streamlined. In the Epilogue, Townsend mentions that "each chapter begins by stitching various sources together to create a vignette about a single person who once lived" (12). This personal focus also makes it more engaging because it gives a look into the Mexica world through their perspective.

Townsend's approach analyzes both individual experiences and broader social, political, and cultural factors of the Mexica story. Focusing mainly on Nahuatl sources allows Townsend to showcase their story from a whole new perspective, one that challenges the old Spanish perspective. The roles of women and their experiences during this time are highlighted throughout the book, for example with figures such as Shield Flower and "Malinche" (99). Townsend's highlighting the role of women as actors in their history also helps redefine Aztec history and humanizes their history. She also analyzes topics such as the impacts of colonialism and does not focus only on political history.

Her approach can come off as a bit biased, since she focuses mainly on Nahuatl sources, but she is upfront about this approach: "If we are very careful to have learned as much as we can before we try to leap the longer distances into more foreign territories, I believe it is the right thing to do" (12). Her upfront approach makes readers aware of her bias, which allows them to interpret her argument and form their own judgement.

Camila Townsend does an excellent job of using a wide array of primary sources to prove her thesis, but with an emphasis on the Nahuatl sources, indigenous histories written after the conquest, songs (*Cantares Mexicanos*), and pictorial codices such as the Codex Mendoza. She does a great job of explaining how she uses her sources and why they are important. For example, when she discusses a source written by Chimalpopoca, she mentions that "a few others who came of age before the arrival of the Spaniards are quoted in the works of younger men, but Chimalpopoca orchestrated the writing of a book that survives to this day" (130). She clearly states why the source is unique and why it matters, which is helpful for the reader to grasp the significance of the sources she uses. Other examples of sources she uses include the writings of Chimalpahin, an indigenous historian, the *Florentine Codex*, and the *Annals of Juan Bautista*.

Townsend's masterful use of sources and engaging writing make her book easily accessible to a wide range of audiences. The reader does not have to have any pre-existing knowledge of the Aztecs in order to enjoy this book, but for those interested in the study of the Aztecs, there is plenty of new knowledge to be acquired. Scholars and general readers will be captivated by the new indigenous perspectives that are not widely discussed. *Fifth Sun* includes several supplemental aids: maps, pictures, detailed footnotes, and an appendix that discusses the methodology of Aztec studies.

[See Aztecs on p. 16](#)

## My Reflections on HIST 2208, God Sex and Revolution

by Samantha Hernandez

Enrolling in this history course has been a transformative academic and personal journey. From gaining a broader understanding of historical content to developing better study habits and enhancing my communication skills, the course has impacted me in numerous ways. This essay reflects on my experience in the course, addressing how it shaped my intellectual growth, personal development, and academic performance.

From the outside, the videos that were provided in this course significantly deepened my understanding of history as a discipline. Previously, I viewed history as a collection of dates and events to memorize. However, the thematic structure of the course and the inclusion of primary and secondary sources challenged that notion. One particularly enlightening moment came when we studied colonialism—not just as a geopolitical event, but as a complex system of economic and cultural domination. This nuanced perspective allowed me to connect historical events to contemporary issues such as inequality and cultural erasure. These insights helped me appreciate history as an evolving dialogue rather than a static record of the past.

To manage the demands of the course, I developed a more intentional approach to studying. I set aside specific times during the week to engage with readings, watch videos, and complete assignments on time. Each module required different types of engagement—whether it was reading scholarly texts, analyzing films, or crafting essays—so I adjusted my strategies accordingly. For instance, I used active recall techniques and concept mapping to better retain historical information, and I created detailed outlines to structure my written work. On average, I dedicated around 2–3 hours per week to mastering the material, and this consistent effort paid off in both comprehension and performance.

A notable area of growth for me was my written communication skills. The course's emphasis on written assignments gave me frequent opportunities to refine my ability to construct arguments and support them with evidence. The process of researching, outlining, and revising this paper taught me how to craft a strong thesis and maintain coherence throughout an essay. The feedback I received from the instructor pushed me to clarify my ideas and develop more precise language. These improvements were evident not only in my history papers but also in my writing for other courses.

This course also reignited and expanded my interest in history. The relevance of historical knowledge to today's world became increasingly clear as we explored themes like resistance, identity, and power. I found myself engaging with historical content outside of class—watching documentaries, reading articles, and even following history-related social media accounts. While I haven't yet decided to major in history, I am now strongly considering a minor or interdisciplinary focus that incorporates historical analysis. The course made me realize that history is not only intellectually stimulating but also deeply relevant to understanding the world around us.

Beyond the classroom, I found myself sharing insights from the course with others. I had several conversations with family members about how historical legacies continue to affect present-day society. With friends, I discussed inaccuracies we noticed in films after watching historical documentaries. In a study group, I explained course concepts to peers who were struggling, and I even posted a brief summary of an article we read to my social media, sparking an engaging conversation. These interactions demonstrated that the knowledge I gained was meaningful and transferable—it resonated with others and sparked curiosity.

Looking back, there are aspects of the course I could have approached more effectively. Early in the semester, I underestimated the workload and delayed starting some film watching, which led to stress and rushed assignments. Once I developed a structured routine and committed to staying ahead, my experience improved significantly. In retrospect, I would have benefitted from creating a study plan from the beginning. These are lessons I now carry forward in my academic life.

[See Reflection on p.16](#)



## Essays and Grocery Lists

### A Note About Organization

(revised from 2004)

Q: When is an essay not an essay?

A: When its organization is undetectable.

According to Forrest Gump's mother, "Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're going to get." What may be true for life should not apply to essays, however, which "attempt" (fr. French *essayer*,\* "to try") to convey one's perspective so that readers know exactly what they're getting.

Acknowledging that there are no perfect analogies, I believe that crafting an essay is something akin to making a grocery list. That is, depending on the essay, a reader will either stride easily along its well-marked paths or will be sentenced to wander around aimlessly in search of meaning to nourish the mind; likewise, depending on the grocery list, a shopper will either move quickly through the store or will be condemned to bounce from one aisle to another randomly searching for food to replenish one's provisions.

Imagine that an essay and a grocery store are both storehouses—one for information, the other for food and household products. Both contain important materials, but it is the **organization** of these materials and the "directions" the writer gives the reader (or shopper) that invite either success or confusion.

As most of us have ample experience grocery shopping, let's begin there: would you prefer to head into your local store with a well-organized list or one that's a jumble of products, one that in no way resembles the layout of the store? How much easier (and faster) it is to complete your shopping when your grocery list follows the path of the store: first produce, then meats, next paper products, followed by grains and snacks, then canned foods, dairy, and finally frozen foods. Whereas these are just **categories** of products, they are helpful for two reasons: there is a correlation between these and the signs in the aisles; and everything you need in each category is all together in one place. Thus this type of list—"apples, bananas, kiwi, lettuce, cucumber, and tomato; chicken, turkey, and ham; t.p.; Cheerios, wheat bread, p.b. and jelly; canned peaches; milk and cottage cheese; o.j. and waffles"—sure beats the kind that is randomly constructed: "eggs, t.p., steak, cereal, paper towels, cheese, deodorant, potatoes, etc."

What kind of grocery list-maker are you?

For the history student, the essay is the usual means to convey how much and how well one has learned material from a course. Thus, the successful student is usually the one who has mastered the art of the historical essay. This means that the essay not only has a point/purpose/theme/thesis/perspective (take your pick), but is also clearly laid out, enabling the reader to "shop" effortlessly for its ideas. Rather than, for example, provide a random list of causes for, say, the French Revolution—one after another in no clear order or purpose—the successful essayist offers not only a clear blueprint of the essay in the introduction but also "signs" indicating the essay's main categories, otherwise known as topic sentences. These signposts enable the writer to discuss, for instance, all the economic causes of the French Revolution in one place, and all the social or political causes elsewhere. In this way, the reader discerns not only a coherence of ideas, but also a larger meaning to the Revolution's causes—e.g., that the causes were not completely random, but were economic, political, social, intellectual, even religious in nature. There is, of course, room to create different kinds of categories, and here's where one's perspective comes in: perhaps the writer sees as crucial "underlying or systemic causes" and "immediate causes," and thus chooses to organize the essay around these categories. The point is less about the nature of the categories than it is about *having* categories, as these create order and meaning for the reader and thus success for the writer.

What kind of essayist are you?

\*"essay" is also an English verb, though a somewhat archaic one anymore. It is, however, forever in my mind from a limerick I learned in junior high school: There once was a girl named Lynn/Who was so incredibly thin/That when she essayed/To drink lemonade/She slipped through the straw and fell in.



**PHI cont. from p. 12**

As in the past, this semester offered programs highlighting the history of our region: a walking tour of Union Cemetery, focused on Black pioneers of Bakersfield; and a group of speakers sharing their research and insights into water issues in Kern Co. We had an excellent turnout for the walking tour in February (during Black History Month), led by PHI Committee member and CA State Parks Interpreter Ms. Lori Wear. Those participating came away with a much better sense of the important role that pioneering Black families played in the development of our city. We were also made aware of the lack of a grave marker for the first African American valedictorian at (what became) Bakersfield HS, a circumstance Ms. Wear is working hard to redress.

For early April, we organized a program of speakers for “Navigating the Waters of the Kern River: the Struggle to Sustain Wildlife and Recreation,” which drew a large audience of students and other campus folks, as well as members of our community. Dr. Douglas Dodd, CSUB professor of the history of the American West, first provided a historical overview of contests over Kern River water; next, Ms. Lois Henry, creator and editor of *SJV Water*, a nonprofit news site covering the San Joaquin Valley, shared more recent struggles over access to water from the Kern, focusing in particular on legal rulings and precedents; and finally, Dr. Rae McNeish, a CSUB professor of Freshwater Biology, provided a presentation on the research she and her students have done on (mainly) the consequences of Kern River water being so reduced that by late last summer, none was running through at least the western portions of Bakersfield, leading to the deaths of hundreds, maybe thousands of fish. These three speakers helped educate the audience about Kern River water rights—and realities—a complicated issue but one critical to sustaining the agriculture of our region, as well as the wildlife dependent on it. Thanks to the HRC’s Donato Cruz for recording this program, which is accessible at <https://phi.csub.edu/>. And, as always, thanks to the incredible dedication of the History Department’s Administrative Support Coordinator, Ms. Charlotte Ziegler,

Join us for this event on  
Friday April 4, 2025, 1:00-2:30 pm  
HUMANITIES 1109  
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS AND THE PUBLIC  
RESERVED PARKING AVAILABLE IN LOT A

who always “gets it done.”

**Reflection cont. from p. 14**

The impact of this course extends beyond academics. Personally, it has made me more empathetic and reflective, especially as I considered the struggles and triumphs of people from different times and cultures. Academically, my research and writing abilities have improved, contributing to my success in other subjects. Professionally, I feel more confident in my ability to communicate clearly and think critically—skills that are essential in any field I choose to pursue. These benefits underscore the lasting value of a humanities education.

For future students taking this course, I offer the following advice: engage actively with the materials, not just to pass assessments but to understand the broader significance of history. Don’t fall behind—set a weekly schedule for film watching and essays. Use tools like timelines and thematic summaries to keep track of key concepts. Ask questions, participate in discussions, and take feedback seriously—it’s the best way to grow. Most importantly, try to connect what you’re learning to the present; history becomes far more compelling when you realize it’s all around you.

In conclusion, this course has been a rich and rewarding experience. It broadened my perspective on history, strengthened my academic skills, and helped me grow personally and professionally. The lessons I’ve learned—both about the past and about myself—will continue to influence me well beyond the classroom.

**Aztecs cont. from p. 13**

These aids are useful for scholars and general readers because they help guide the reader through the vast amount of information and Aztec names. For scholars interested in the Aztecs, the Appendix is useful for the study of primary sources. While the aids are helpful, one issue is that the general reader may get overwhelmed with the sheer number of Nahuatl names and words, which can be hard to digest. This is a minor issue and does not take away from the narrative being told. *Fifth Sun* does a great job of redefining the story of the Aztecs by contributing new perspectives that frame them as actors in their own history and not just as victims of Spanish conquest.

## Tales From the Unexpected: Daniel and Dhada Head East to West Africa

By Mustafah Dhada



As promised, I said I would share reflections from the field during our work on restoring the National Archives in Bissau. Here is the first entry. Apologies for the delay.

The end of the term saw Professor Dhada and Daniel John Ware, graduate student in History, head to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau via Lisbon to rescue the national sound archives. Both went armed for all eventualities: lack of food, mosquitos aplenty buzzing in a soup of heat and humidity, occasional supply of air-conditioned coffee shops—one still called Café Imperial—and plenty of dust and an equally plentiful supply of mangoes.

We landed in Lisbon and were hit by a blackout. One of us fell to food poisoning. No ambulances were to be seen. Hospital waits were reported to be anywhere between 14 to eighteen hours. I blamed the undercooked goat flank I ate in Coimbra, where I paid a brief visit to an ailing colleague undergoing intense cancer treatment—I held her hands as we spoke of hopes and better times ahead, while both connected by enfeebled tissues and blood running in our veins communicated our shared past: intellectual, emotional, and events related to our mutual families. It was a heart-wrenching, fragile, and ever-so-tremulous experience, as I said goodbye; our eyes met, my masked face dared not get closer than was safe for her to be with me. That was not how I had envisaged the rhythm of a scholarly mind plunging into an ever-depleting reservoir of energy to fight life and continue to live in scholarly splendor. Yikes.



I returned to Lisbon in darkness unknown, to face power and net-based shortages and doubled over in abdominal pain. From esophagus to exit, nothing was at peace. Should I stay behind and join Daniel and the other member of my team after an emergency visit? Was it appendicitis? Could over-the-counter medication help? No pharmacy was open, and the one I found half-shuttered refused to dispense over-the-counter medication. In the end, they did. I returned and ingested the substance and hoped for the best.

We were then informed the flight to Bissau was on schedule. So off we Ubered to the airport, driven by an erudite, well-educated immigrant driver with a clear sense of mission for his life ahead. And what a mission he had—own a fleet of Teslas, own several houses for rent, marry a local girl (ah, “it doesn’t matter that she is not a Muslim,” he said), and live happily ever after, with periodic visits back home, where mangoes were as “perky as unripened breasts” and where he could do some good. I did not dare to coax his tongue away from politically explosive misuse of language.



We arrived at Humberto Delgado airport in the nick of time. People were strewn everywhere, clearly bedraggled, tired, some hungry and bleary-eyed as they tapped on their cellphones, communicating with loved ones over the free internet. Some had taken several plastic containers from the conveyor belt wedged by suitcases to form a springless box to sleep for the night. One couple spooned tightly to make do with three box containers. Clearly, the supply of containers had run out by the time this pair got to bed for the night.

Apart from this scenario—caused by flight delays and blackout—the airport had remarkably recovered its logistic composure. By this time, a third member of our team had joined us and off we went through electronic ticketing and baggage drop. We ascended the moving belt towards security and immigration control.

[See Tales on p. 18](#)



## News from the Historical Research Center (HRC)

by Chris Livingston, Director and University Archivist

The Historical Research Center had seven amazing interns this fall semester. We would like to thank Raul Avalos, Alicia Vargas Escamilla, Elian Lopez, Robert Moore, Jillian O'Bannon, Jo Sloan, and Atlas Tillery for their service to the HRC. Our interns helped conduct a Latin American census of immigrants to Kern County, transcribe and research Kern County coroner records, transcribe WWII letters and catalog photographs, conduct newspaper research, digitize records and much, much more! Their discoveries and discussions led to a deeper understanding of our archival collections. Thank you for being so dedicated!

### *How to Use the Historical Research Center for Your Next Paper*

If you're beginning a research project, reach out to the HRC as soon as possible. It's never too early to ask a question. We encourage you to utilize our appointment system at <https://hrc.csub.edu/contact-us/> to ensure dedicated time to assist you. Before your visit, take a look at our online finding aids to get a sense of what we have available. Our finding aids can be found at <https://archives.csub.edu/>

Keep in mind that not everything is digitized. Be prepared to spend time exploring physical materials in our collections. Come in and talk to us about your topic. Remember, we're here to help. Don't hesitate to email us ([clivingston@csu.edu](mailto:clivingston@csu.edu), [dcruz6@csu.edu](mailto:dcruz6@csu.edu), or [archives@csu.edu](mailto:archives@csu.edu)) with any questions. We can also help connect you to other archives that may hold relevant resources.

### *How We Preserve the Past: Preservation Techniques at the Center*

At the HRC, one of the key techniques we use to care for fragile historical materials is rehumidification. This gentle process helps us safely flatten documents such as rolled photographs or curled paper items, making them accessible for research and study.

To rehumidify, we place a small amount of water in a sealable plastic tub and set the document on a raised rack above the water. The container is then sealed, allowing moisture to slowly re-enter the paper fibers. Depending on the size and condition of the item, it remains in the chamber for a carefully monitored period of time. Once the document has relaxed, we gently flatten it and allow it to dry completely before it is handled or stored.

Students enrolled in HIST 4030 Archives and Special Collections or HIST 3860 History Practicum will have the opportunity to experience preservation measures like this firsthand. These courses offer a behind-the-scenes look at how we care for historical materials and prepare students for future generations of researchers.

### **Tales** cont. from p. 17

The flight to Bissau was uneventful; the food expectedly uninviting – sugar infused carbs, and polysaturated fats in a pool of microwaved slurry. We were relocated from our assigned seats and moved to the front; the flight crew was clearly tired and wanted to spread its bedraggled legs in the back seat row one was keen to get back to her book by Sylvia Plath translated in Portuguese – clearly an angst-ridden soul in search poetic escape from an encroaching madness within. I promptly fell into deep slumber, as we crossed the Atlantic skirting the jagged edge of the Casablanca coastline as we headed south to Mauritania. Once we landed, pandemonium ensued. I spotted an usher, it transpired a visa facilitator, who escorted my team and I into a side room for visa processing. We were politely received, our passports taken, our forms pre-filled and our passports ready to be stamped in large block letters in electric blue. Just then the door opened, and young female traveler stepped into the air-conditioned sanctum. Our immigration processing work stopped as the two greetings with each other, mixing warmth, formality, and favoritism. She was processed with lightning speed and off she went with a message from her to greet her family with fond memories of times shared together. I was hoping to be the next recipient of such a costless largesse. No such luck! We were charged a hundred dollars each or thereabouts; our Portuguese member of the team got a rebate but just, and off we went to next door to be verified that nothing illegal had transpired between us, the passport and the lady immigration processor next door.

It is then that the fun began. Everyone was pushing and shoving each other to get to the conveyor belt; and the voices became louder and louder, with tempers rising as less powerful voices drowned in a medley of sweat, and cross-cutting use of many languages mixed with Creole and some Portuguese. I thought it better to just stay still until the conveyor belt had disgorged its last batch of bags, many bulging at the seams with goods barely held together by clinging plastic and tapes in vibrant colours.

We got into a rickety van to get to our motel/hotel/home – Casa Cacheu. We were all exhausted but glad to get ready to head to the National Sound Archives the next day.

And that is how we landed in Bissau to begin our restoration project. (to be continued....)

### Faculty News cont. from p. 6

This spring, **Professor Kate Mulry** was awarded a Micro Fellowship at the Folger Shakespeare Library on behalf of the Folger Institute. She spent a week at the library examining some of the incredible collection of rare books and archival materials, including recipe books from the 1600s, during CSUB's spring break.

**Professor Mulry** has also presented research at two conferences and a symposium since the start of 2025. In January she traveled to the American Historical Association's annual meeting in New York City to participate in a roundtable discussion entitled, "Early American Environments: Natural and Unnatural Histories." In early May she traveled to Philadelphia to participate in a conference organized by The McNeil Center for Early American Studies. The conference, "Where is Early America?," was a state of the field conference, and urged participants to propose new frameworks for comprehending the earliest period of European colonization in America and novel arguments for bringing scholarly attention to this era. Professor Mulry presented her work on a panel entitled, "Transplanting Early America: Plants, Scientific Labour, and Art in the Early Modern Atlantic World." Finally, at the end of May, Professor Mulry was invited to participate in a symposium at Mount Vernon, VA, the home of America's first president, George Washington. At the symposium, "'Judiciously Cultivated': Revolutionary Gardens, Future Visions," Professor Mulry delivered a talk entitled, "A Jamaican Garden in Ireland: Women, Botany, and Archival Fragments in the Early Atlantic World."

**Professor Miriam Raub Vivian** is officially retiring this summer. She will, however, continue to teach halftime for the near future as part of the CSU's Faculty Early Retirement Program and is looking forward to engaging students in ancient Mediterranean history, as well as in other courses.

**Professor Wempe** took on two new committee assignments. He will be serving on both the College Elections Committee and on the Faculty Honors and Awards committee from May 2025-27.

**Professor Wempe** is continuing to work on his research on German tropical medical experts in the League of Nations Health Organization in the 1920s and 1930s. He is also continuing work on a three-years-long collaboration for a set of articles for a special edition planned for submission to the *American Historical Review* on imperial afterlives alongside fellow scholars who work on the German, Ottoman, Russian, and Austro-Hungarian empires and their dissolution following the First World War.

**Professor Wempe** reviewed Doris L. Bergen, *Between God and Hitler. Military Chaplains in Nazi Germany* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023) for the June 2025 issue of

*Anglican and Episcopal History*. Making use of an impressive nineteen archives in four countries, Bergen highlights the ways in which Christian clergy—both Roman Catholic and Protestant—were more often opportunistic partners of the genocidal Nazi regime that helped rationalize, justify, or paper over the mass murders committed by the Wehrmacht during the Second World War. This strong addition to the literature will be of use to discussions by subject specialists as well as beneficial assigned reading for both graduate and undergraduate courses on Nazism, the Second World War, and the Holocaust. Chief among the strengths of Bergen's work are a.) her ability to give voice to victims of Nazi crimes while engaging with narratives constructed by perpetrators and collaborators and b.) her coverage of both the Catholic and Protestant chaplaincies. Bergen makes a point of interspersing memoir segments, letters, interviews, and photos from Jewish and Slavic victims of the Wehrmacht and the Nazis within the running narratives crafted by the chaplains she's examining. This is done to disrupt the narrative of the perpetrator and encourage deeper analysis of the way the chaplains describe the events and crimes to which they are complicit.

**Professor Wempe** also reviewed an edited volume, Peter Jackson, William Mulligan, and Glenda Sluga, eds., *Peacemaking and International Order after the First World War* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023), for the December 2025 issue of *Central European History*. For those interested, the chapters by Martin Thomas (Ch.6), Karen Gram-Skjoldager (Ch. 8), Jennifer Siegel (Ch. 10), Jamie Martin (Ch. 11), Talbot Imlay (Ch. 13), and Mona L. Siegel (Ch. 14) constitute "must-reads," for those interested in the internationalist philosophies and institutions that formed in the immediate aftermath of the First World War. Thomas's work forcefully asks the question "peace for who?" in a solid analysis of the imperial aftermath of the Paris Peace Conference and what it meant for millions of Africans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Arabs living in the French and British colonies and Mandates. Gram-Skjoldager's chapter does a careful examination of the technical functions of the emerging international civil service of the League and the ideological underpinnings needed to defend this creation against the adversarial dismissals of its role by state actors and diplomats who were wedded to an older power politics. Jennifer Siegel's fantastic breakdown of the competing plans for reshaping global finance and debt repayments of governments in the interwar era and Jamie Martin's fascinating entry on attempts to create international bodies and treaties to manage key raw materials and global trade in them are a back-to-back combination that has particularly poignant lessons for our own topsy-turvy global economy in the 2020s. Talbot Imlay's contribution on competing socialist internationalisms and Mona L. Siegel's work on the wide variety of feminist international groups from Europe, Africa, and Asia represent a toe-hold for a much needed range of pieces on alternative pathways and ideologies of internationalism and peacekeeping that emerged in the er

## Museum Exhibits

by Miriam Raub Vivian & Douglas Dodd

For those unaware of this amazing museum, the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles is actually TWO museums: The Getty Villa and the Getty Center. The former is located off Pacific Coast Hwy. in Malibu, and the latter is right off Interstate 405 in Los Angeles.

The descriptions on their website are succinct and helpful:

“The J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Center in Los Angeles houses European paintings, drawings, sculpture, illuminated manuscripts, decorative arts, and photography from its beginnings to the present, gathered internationally.”

“The J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Villa in Malibu opened on January 28, 2006, after the completion of a major renovation project. As a museum and educational center dedicated to the study of the arts and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome, and Etruria, the Getty Villa serves a varied audience through exhibitions, conservation, scholarship, research, and public programs. The Villa houses approximately 44,000 works of art from the Museum’s extensive collection of Greek, Roman, and Etruscan antiquities, of which over 1,200 are on view.”

There are permanent and special exhibits, and both venues have amazing collections—and they are practically in our backyard! Visitors travel from all over the world to tour both (you’ll easily hear numerous languages during a visit), and we are just a couple hours away from these internationally recognized museums.

And did I mention that **both are FREE**?! All you have to do is go online in advance to reserve parking for the day/time of your visit. The parking fee is \$20 per car, which is quite a bargain to see either of these museums. Each is also open six days a week, aside from major holidays. (The Center is closed on Mondays, and the Villa is closed on Tuesdays.) Weekends can be especially busy, so plan your visit in advance.

Grab a friend or family member and plan your trip; perhaps you can even venture down during summer. For more information, visit [www.getty.edu/museum](http://www.getty.edu/museum).

### Getty Center:



### *Symbols and Signs: Decoding Medieval Manuscripts*

May 20, 2025 – August 10, 2025

“Explore the mysterious world of medieval codes through manuscripts. Learn about the clever configurations of textual and visual elements that medieval scribes and artists deliberately and playfully employed to arrest the attention of readers and engage their minds in deciphering divine and worldly secrets. Intricately interwoven letters, puzzling monograms, cryptic symbols, and more await to be decoded.”

[See Museum on p. 21](#)



Outer Peristyle, The J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Villa



**Museum** cont. from p. 20

Getty Center:

***Queer Lens: A History of Photography***

June 17, 2025–September 28, 2025



“Since the mid-19th century, photography has served as a powerful tool for examining concepts of gender, sexuality, and self-expression. The immediacy and accessibility of the medium has played a transformative role in the gradual proliferation of homosocial, homoerotic, and homosexual imagery. Despite periods of severe homophobia, when many photographs depicting queer life were suppressed or destroyed, this exhibition brings together a variety of evidence to explore the medium’s profound role in shaping and affirming the vibrant tapestry of the LGBTQ+ community.”

Getty Center:

***Going Places: Travel in the Middle Ages***

September 2, 2025–November 30, 2025



“In medieval art, the act of movement from one place to another was conceptualized in a variety of imaginative forms. Featuring manuscripts from the Getty’s collection, this exhibition explores the reasons for travel, different modes of medieval travel, and examples of typical travelers. Illustrations often accurately documented the realities of travel and prompted viewers to travel virtually through their imaginations. The exhibition showcases the wide variety of contexts for medieval movement, from religious travel to diplomacy, trade, exploration, and exploitation.”

Getty Center:

***Artemisia’s Strong Women: Rescuing a Masterpiece***

June 10, 2025–September 14, 2025

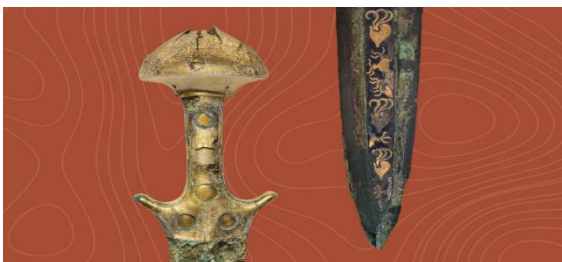


“In 2020, a massive explosion in the port of Beirut devastated the city. Among the wreckage was a previously unknown painting by Artemisia Gentileschi, the most celebrated woman painter of 17th-century Italy. Depicting a scene from the Greek myth of Hercules, the severely damaged painting came to Getty for in-depth conservation treatment. In an installation focused on its repair, the restored painting is accompanied by four of Gentileschi’s other paintings, highlighting her special focus on *donne forti* (strong women) from the classical and biblical traditions.”

Getty Villa:

***The Kingdom of Pylos: Warrior-Princes of Ancient Greece***

June 27, 2025–January 12, 2026



“Encounter the latest discoveries from Messenia, an epicenter of Mycenaean civilization in Late Bronze Age Greece, displayed for the first time outside Europe. Archaeology and cutting-edge science reveal the world of the Griffin Warrior, whose grave held offerings of incomparable artistry. Princely burials in monumental tombs reflect a society that came to be ruled by the Palace of Nestor in ancient Pylos. Carved sealstones, goldwork, elaborate weapons, and wall paintings accompany inscribed tablets that document the final year of a powerful kingdom.”

See Museum on p. 22

Museum cont. from p. 21

Getty Villa:

*Sculpted Portraits from Ancient Egypt*

January 24, 2024–January 25, 2027



“This exhibition features sculpture from a time of intense artistic revival and renewal in ancient Egypt: the Twenty-Sixth Dynasty (664-526 BCE), also known as the Saite Dynasty after its capital city of Sais in the Nile Delta. Egyptian artists of this period made striking portrait statues of officials associated with the court and priesthood, sculpted reliefs, figurines, and sarcophagi (stone coffins). Depictions of individuals made for temples allowed subjects to eternally worship the gods and receive blessings, while others were placed in tombs, functioning as vessels that

could temporarily house the deceased’s spirit. Explore these exceptional artworks at the Getty Villa. The works in this exhibition are on special loan from the British Museum, London.”

Bowers Museum (Santa Ana):

*World of the Terracotta Warriors: New Archaeological Discoveries in Shaanxi in the 21st Century*

May 24, 2025–October 19, 2025



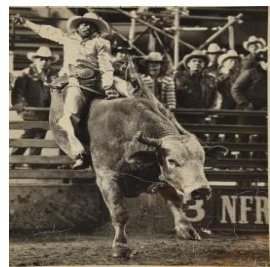
“The discovery of the first terracotta army pit in the 1970s turned a great deal of global attention to the life and legacy of Qin Shi Huang, the Qin emperor. In 2008, Bowers Museum made history by hosting the groundbreaking exhibition *Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor*, captivating audiences with these awe-inspiring cultural relics. Expanding upon this legacy, the 2011 exhibition *Warriors, Tombs, and Temples: China's Enduring Legacy* examined the enduring influence of the Qin emperor's funerary traditions on subsequent dynasties. Now, archaeological finds in Shaanxi within the past two decades have revealed new information about pre-dynastic China’s political landscape and artistic achievements. *World of the*

*Terracotta Warriors* comprises over 110 newly uncovered treasures including Terracotta Warriors, chariot regalia, jade and gold adornments, bronze vessels, and much, much more. In a landmark collaboration with the Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Center and esteemed museums and archaeological institutions across Shaanxi Province, these artifacts make their North American debut, offering audiences unprecedented glimpses into China before and during the Qin dynasty.”

Autry Museum of the American West:

*Black Cowboys: An American Story*

June 14, 2025–January 4, 2026



“Did you know that one of four cowboys who went on the trail was Black? From the ranches of Texas to the cities of California, **Black Cowboys: An American Story** offers a clearer picture of the Black West and a more diverse portrait of the American frontier. Historical and contemporary objects, photographs, and personal stories convey the work and spirit of Black cowboys and reveal how Black men and women turned their equestrian skills to popular performances in rodeo, Western film, and music. Videos created for this exhibition highlight individual Black cowfolk, past and present, who have kept these traditions alive.”

See Museum on p. 23



Museum cont. from p. 22

**Autry Museum of the American West:**

*Future Imaginaries: Indigenous Art, Fashion, Technology*

September 7, 2024–June 21, 2026



“*Future Imaginaries* explores the rise of Futurism in contemporary Indigenous art as a means of enduring colonial trauma, creating alternative futures and advocating for Indigenous technologies in a more inclusive present and sustainable future. Over 50 artworks are on display, some interspersed throughout the museum, creating unexpected encounters and dialogues between contemporary Indigenous creations and historic Autry works. Artists such as Andy Everson, Ryan Singer and Neal Ambrose Smith wittily upend pop-culture icons by Indigenizing sci-fi characters and storylines; Wendy Red Star places Indigenous people in surreal spacescapes wearing fantastical regalia; Virgil Ortiz brings his own space odyssey, [ReVOlt 1680/2180](#), to life in a new, site-specific installation. By intermingling science fiction, self-determination, and Indigenous technologies across a diverse array of Native cultures, *Future Imaginaries* envisions sovereign futures while countering historical myths and the ongoing impact of colonization, including environmental degradation and toxic stereotypes.”

**Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA):**

*We Live in Painting: The Nature of Color in Mesoamerican Art*

September 15, 2024–September 1, 2025



“Mesoamerican artists held a cosmic responsibility: as they adorned the surfaces of buildings, clay vessels, textiles, bark-paper pages, and sculptures with color, they (quite literally) made the world. The power of color emerged from the materiality of its pigments, the skilled hands that crafted it, and the communities whose knowledge imbued it with meaning. Color mapped the very order of the cosmos, of time and space. By engineering and deploying color, artists wielded the power of cosmic creation in their hands. *We Live in Painting: The Nature of Color in Mesoamerican Art* explores the science, art, and cosmology of color in Mesoamerica. Histories of colonialism and industrialization in the “color-averse” West have minimized the deep significance of color in the Indigenous Americas. This exhibition follows two interconnected lines of inquiry—technical and material analyses, and Indigenous conceptions of art and image—to reach the full richness of color at the core of Mesoamerican worldviews.”

**Academy Museum of Motion Pictures (Los Angeles):**

*Cyberpunk: Envisioning Possible Futures through Cinema*

October 6, 2024–April 12, 2026



“Examines the global impact and lasting influence of the science fiction subgenre cyberpunk on cinema culture.”





# HISTORY FIELD TRIP

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 8AM - 3PM**

Join the History Department as we visit the Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park on **Saturday, September 6th**. Nestled atop a ridge in the Tehachapi Mountains, overlooking Sand Canyon to the east and the Tehachapi Valley to the west, Tomo-Kahni, or "Winter Village," was the site of a Kawaiisu (Nuwa) village. The Kawaiisu migrated from the Great Basin and made Tehachapi their home for two to three thousand years.

We will meet at CSUB in Parking Lot A by **8:00 am** before carpooling to the Tehachapi Museum for an orientation. From there, we will make our way to the park for a moderately strenuous three hour walking tour. We'll return to campus by 3:00pm.

## WHAT TO BRING



Water  
Bottle &  
Sack Lunch



Good Walking  
Shoes & Layered  
Clothing



Sunscreen  
&  
Hat

SCAN BELOW TO REGISTER



#### **Herrera** cont. from p. 1

She further presented her research last month at the annual Phi Alpha Theta Conference for Southern California. She is a delight to have in class, always thoroughly prepared, diligent, and careful in her work. Outside the History Dept., Ms. Herrera works as a student assistant in the Historical Research Center, helping preserve our region's history through archival work. She helped with the HRC's Basque Arboglyphs exhibit, one of many such HRC exhibits that help educate the public and draw attention to issues of current importance to our community, such as immigration, an exhibit to which she is now contributing. As a member of the Intercollegiate Civil Disagreement Program, she is furthering students' ability to engage in conversations about difficult and political topics. On her way to becoming a museum curator, Ms. Herrera plans to earn a History MA at CSUB.

#### **Goné** cont. from p. 1

His adept writing abilities further underscore his dedication to historical scholarship. Beyond academics, Ricardo's congenial demeanor and steadfast convictions create a unique presence, earning him admiration among peers and faculty alike. His commitment to excellence and intellectual curiosity defines Ricardo as a standout student in the history program at CSUB.

#### **Roberts** cont. from p. 1

Noah has also shown an ability to anticipate professors' questions, and sometimes he's one step ahead! Through his regular participation in departmental programs like the History Forum and past History Career Panels, it is clear that Noah has a genuine passion for the subject of history that goes far beyond the satisfaction that comes with a strong letter grade. Future students will be very lucky to benefit from his wealth of knowledge and his thoughtful character.

#### **Klassen** cont. from p. 1

Both her in-class contributions and her essays have revealed a strong ability to analyze cross-cultural interactions and transnational flows of people and ideas with precision and clarity, while also taking into account the complexity of the past. She also has been able to draw insights from other classes into her work and can highlight gaps in historical knowledge.

#### **Kiefer** cont. from p. 1

Not often do professors come across student research papers that are worthy of publication in peer-reviewed academic journals, and Kayla's ongoing project on the history of sex education in Kern County is undoubtedly professional grade research. Beyond her curricular work, she serves as the President of CSUB's History Club, works in the History Tutoring Center, and regularly attends departmental programming events. She has contributed greatly to the History Department, and we are excited to see what great things she will accomplish in the coming years.

#### **Ware** cont. from p. 1

Wanting a deeper understanding of the human story, he decided to pursue graduate studies in history in the history department. Daniel gravitated toward modern African history—not merely from intellectual curiosity, but from a profound conviction to apply historical insights meaningfully in the present. He hopes his interdisciplinary research, blending history and anthropology, will support trauma survivors, highlight contemporary political violence, and further the vital task of decolonizing African historiography.





## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS

\*Denotes member of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society

Luis Atrisco	*America Briviesca Montalvo	Alejandro Cano
Joe Castro	Nalani Dela Cruz	Alyssia Flores
*Kelly Garrison	Moises Gomez	*Jaztyn Greer
Alexandro Hernandez	*Guadalupe Herrera	Zachary Herrera
Robert Hunt	Elian Lopez Manriquez	Gabriel Maldonado
*Bailey Mills	Luis Naranjo	Yesenia Nava
Mckenzie Parker	*Cole Parnell	Abelardo Penaloza
Brooke Perez	Payton Powers	*Jessica Rhodes
*Noah Roberts	Daniel Romero	Garrett Scheible
*Isaac Self	Guadalupe Suarez Oliveros	*Atlas Tillery
Robert Watson	Kyle Winn	Michael Yanni





Fall 2025 CLASS SCHEDULE				
Hist 1218.01	Survey of US History to 1877	Allen, Stephen	FTF	M/W 1:00-2:15pm
Hist 1218.02	Survey of US History to 1877	Allen, Stephen	FTF	M/W 10:00-11:15am
Hist 1218.03	Survey of US History to 1877	Andreotti, Jenny	Hybrid	M/W 10:00-10:50am
Hist 1218.04	Survey of US History to 1877	Andreotti, Jenny	Hybrid	M/W 11:00-11:50am
Hist 1218.60	Survey of US History to 1877	Mulry, Kate	Online	
Hist 1218.61	Survey of US History to 1877	Mulry, Kate	Online	
Hist 1228.02	Survey of US History since 1865	Andreotti, Jenny	FTF	TU/TH 1:00-2:15pm
Hist 1228.60	Survey of US History since 1865	Garcha, Kiran	Online	
Hist 1228.61	Survey of US History since 1865	Garcha, Kiran	Online	
Hist 1228.62	Survey of US History since 1865	Acuña-Gurrola, Moisés	Hybrid	TU 2:30-3:45pm
Hist 1228.63	Survey of US History since 1865	Acuña-Gurrola, Moisés	Hybrid	TU 2:30-3:45pm
Hist 1418.01	World History, Pre-history to 1500	Chen, John	Hybrid	M/W 11:00-11:50am
Hist 1418.60	World History, Pre-history to 1500	Dhada, Mustafah	Online	
Hist 1418.61	World History, Pre-history to 1500	Dhada, Mustafah	Online	
Hist 1428.60	World History, since 1500 CE	Wempe, Sean	Online	
Hist 2000.01	Historians Craft	Wempe, Sean	FTF	TU/TH 1:00-2:15pm
Hist 2100.01	Introduction to California History	Andreotti, Jenny	FTF	TU/TH 10:00am-11:15pm
Hist 2100.02	Introduction to California History	Andreotti, Jenny	FTF	M/W 2:30-3:45pm
Hist 3008.01	Historical Writing	Vivian, Miriam	FTF	M/W 4:00-5:15pm
Hist 3008.02	Historical Writing	Wempe, Sean	FTF	TU/TH 10:00-11:15am
Hist 3110.01	Colonial North America 1492-1776	Mulry, Kate	FTF	TU/TH 5:30-6:45pm
Hist 3330.01	Modern Mexico	Allen, Stephen	FTF	TU/TH 2:30-3:45pm
Hist 3408.01	Afro-Asianism: Anti-Racism in Global History	Chen, John	FTF	M/W 1:00-2:15pm
Hist 3440.01	African Decolonization, 1922-1994	Dhada, Mustafah	Hybrid	TU 4:00-5:15pm
Hist 3460.01	Pre-Modern Japan	Chen, John	FTF	M/W 2:30-3:45pm
Hist 3570.01	Europe Since 1914	Frakes, Bob	FTF	M/W 11:00-11:50am
Hist 3860.01	History Practicum	Mulry, Kate	FTF	M/W 5:30pm-6:45pm
Hist 4030.01	Archives and Special Collection	Livingston, Chris	FTF	TU/TH 8:30-9:45am
Hist 4220.01	Mexican American History	Acuña-Gurrola, Moisés	FTF	TU/TH 11:30am-12:45pm
Hist 4230.01	African American History	Garcha, Kiran	FTF	M/W 2:30-3:45pm
Hist 4248.01	Film & Identity in History	Wempe, Sean	Online	
Hist 4548.01	History of War	Frakes, Bob	Online	
Hist 4640.01	Pagans and Christians in the Roman World	Vivian, Miriam	FTF	M/W 1:00-2:15pm
Hist 4908.01	Senior Seminar	Chen, John	FTF	M/W 4:00-5:15pm
Hist 5130.01	Reading Seminar in the American West	Dodd, Douglas	FTF	W 5:30-8:00pm
Hist 5140.01	Reading Seminar in African American History	Garcha, Kiran	FTF	M 5:30-8:00pm
Hist 5430.01	Reading Seminar in the African History	Dhada, Mustafah	FTF	T 5:30-8:00pm

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