Can there be any doubt that the greatest revolution of the last forty years has been the digitalization of the world? Whatever it engulfs it changes forever, from commerce to culture. In the field of higher education it arrived as long ago as the introduction of the personal computer but for some time the core methods of university instruction—the seminar room, the laboratory, and the lecture hall—remained only tangentially impacted. Within the last decade, however, the advent of fully online education has begun to pose the same challenge to the existence of brick and mortar universities as Amazon has posed to the brick and mortar stores of Main Street.

Perhaps the ballyhooed feature of this transformation has been the emergence of MOOCs, or Massive Open Online Courses. Touted by their supporters, including a number of prominent Silicon Valley tycoons who have invested heavily in the companies that provide them, as the wave of the future, they promise to introduce enormous economies of scale into higher education, thus reducing dramatically the costs for students. In theory, the most prominent expert on a subject, or the most effective teacher, can prerecord his or her lectures and reach an unlimited audience via the Internet. If students need additional help or have questions, breakout sessions can be handled by teaching assistants paid, presumably, a minimum wage. Students would never actually come into contact with their professors; at most they would interact with a teaching assistant but perhaps only electronically. In the most extreme version of this future the need for a university like Chico State—with its expensive faculty, staff, and administration, with its beautiful buildings and lawns and their expensive upkeep, with its dormitories and active student life—would be eliminated or greatly reduced. There’s no room for sentimentality about the old alma mater in this view of an elite higher education made available to all through the miracle of technology. One of the most ardent proponents of MOOCs, the Silicon Valley entrepreneur and libertarian, Sebastian Thrun, has predicted that there could be only 10 research universities left in the world.

(\url{http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2012/03/ff_aiclass/all/})

So much for theory. But, to quote T. S. Eliot, “between the idea and the reality falls the shadow.” Perhaps the most ambitious effort to implement the full MOOC program took place at San Jose State a year ago. The president of the university, a big promoter of the MOOC idea, formed a partnership with Thrun’s firm Udacity, offering a number of fully online math classes in the spring of 2013. The results were so disappointing that San Jose State announced the suspension of its collaboration with Udacity: only 51% of the students taking the classes it offered passed compared with a 74% pass rate for students taking the regular classes on campus. Although
Thrun blamed the results on unmotivated students and although the university promised to continue the experiment, the blow struck to the absurdly inflated promises made has probably been fatal.

Once again history—this time the history of higher education—can help us put these developments in context. In his forceful fall convocation talk, President Paul Zingg, ex officio member of the History Department as I never tire of mentioning, compared the hoopla over MOOCs to earlier, equally inflated bouts of enthusiasm for magic bullets in higher education, for example, distance learning. He then presented the Technology Hype Cycle Graph, showing the tidal wave of enthusiasm for the technological fix—followed by steep decline as the deficiencies of the technology become evident, finally the leveling out of expectations, with the new technology making its—considerably more modest—contribution to the tools available to higher education. The President pointed out how MOOCs fail precisely those groups—underrepresented and community college students—whom the Governor has targeted for special attention. The attrition rates here in MOOC style courses are extremely high. Finally he reminded us of what we know about how education works: “Students learn when they have contact with faculty; when they have opportunities for interaction and cooperation among themselves; when learning is actively engaged, not passively received; when they receive prompt, individualized feedback for their work; when they are held accountable to the tasks and the goals of their courses; when high expectations accompany their studies; when diverse talents and ways of learning are recognized and accommodated.” Of course MOOCs have their contribution to make as do other forms of education technology. But they are not a panacea, they do not absolve legislators and political leaders of the need to properly finance universities, and they cannot replace the face-to-face interaction that is at the heart of all education.

It has been an eventful year in the Department. On October 21 Caroline Winterer, Professor of History at Stanford University and Director of the Stanford Humanities Center, gave the Thirteenth Annual Joanna Dunlap Cowden Memorial Lecture to a full house in the Rowland-Taylor Hall. Her talk, “Are We Greece or Rome? America’s Infatuation with Classical Antiquity,” was a fascinating example of what the Germans call Rezeptionsgeschichte, the way in which the memory of a distant historical epoch shapes the present. As an historian of German cultural history, I was struck by both the differences and the parallels between the way Americans and Germans have been influenced by their historical imagination of classical antiquity.

A month later, on November 5, the Department hosted a new and different sort of Roundtable. Jason Nice and myself representing History and Wai-hung Wong and Ed Pluth representing Philosophy participated in a discussion entitled “Is History Bunk? Historians and Philosophers Debate the Question of Historical Truth.” It was very gratifying to see the hall packed and to hear the very lively conversation that ensued afterward.

You may find videotapes of these events, as well as of Kate Transchel’s recent TEDxChico talk on her work on human trafficking here: http://rce.csuchico.edu/professional-development/connect-learn-engage/forums/history

As I write, I am anticipating the final History Public Lecture of the year, Jason Nice’s talk “Tudor Memories: 500 Years of Commemoration at Hampton Court Place,” Wednesday March 26, at 7:30 pm. Professor Nice will explore the curious representations of the Tudors as they have evolved over the centuries. Here’s more information: http://www.schoolofthearts-csuchico.com/press/tudormemories.shtml

No description of the year would be complete without mentioning the retirement of Claudia Beaty, the Administrative Services Coordinator for the Department. For the last nineteen years Claudia has fielded the questions of anxious students and professors alike, performed the complicated juggling act of drawing up schedules, finding appropriate rooms for classes, and managing the budget. She did all of this and more with good cheer (mostly!), keen intelligence, and a ready laugh. The Department celebrated her retirement with a highly enjoyable party at the 1078 Gallery on February 27.

Taking Claudia’s place is Heather Kilcoyne, who comes to us from the Art and Art History
Department. We welcome her to the top floor of Trinity Hall!

Finally, in the same “out with the old, in with the new” mode, this will be my last Chair’s Corner piece. I will be handing over the reins to my very capable colleague Steve Lewis at the end of this semester. I wish all the readers of this modest newsletter the very best.

Faculty Research: Jason Nice on the process of finding a topic

On November 5, 2013, I joined colleagues from the departments of History and Philosophy on a roundtable to debate the question of historical truth and objectivity. At several points during the discussion, the objectivity of the historian came under scrutiny, with some arguing that a work of history is always autobiographical. In the case of my current project on the history of Hampton Court Palace – as a local, national, and global site of memory – the trajectory of my education and career led eventually (inevitably?) to the palace of Henry VIII. As an undergraduate, the death of my Welsh grandmother prompted me to enroll in two semesters of Welsh language, and then to write an undergraduate thesis on sixteenth-century Wales. Once acquired, historians often allow “their” foreign language – especially a difficult-to-acquire and exotic one – to set the parameters for their research, and this was certainly true in my case. I visited Wales as a tourist and to present papers, but Laura (who also teaches at Chico State) and I conducted the bulk of our research in London, as my aunt and uncle welcomed us into their home in East Molesey, a town situated across the River Thames from Hampton Court Palace. The price of admission prevented us from visiting often, but the massive palace was always there. It dominated the landscape and our imaginations. After long days at the archives in central London we returned “home” by train to Hampton Court Station, and the decorative red brick chimneys were our dreaming spires, rising above the sixteenth-century palace of Cardinal Wolsey, Henry VIII, his children, and all six of his wives. From 2000 to 2005 when we frequented London, Royal Historical Palaces (the independent charity that currently oversees Hampton Court Palace, the Tower of London, etc.) had just initiated an aggressive new campaign to attract visitors to their properties by celebrating “History where it happened.” And, in the absence of a national museum devoted to the Tudors, Hampton Court Palace became the de facto site of memory for schoolchildren and tourists to commemorate the deeds and misdeeds of the popular dynasty. I recall advertising posters splashed across the sides of red busses, taxi cabs, tube stations, and train stations that beckoned visitors to Hampton Court with bloody pictures of Henry VIII and his wives. It was an amusing sight, though at the time my scholarly gaze was directed elsewhere. Yet the theoretical principles that underpinned my work at that time – especially those relating to social and cultural memory – would one day prompt me to examine Hampton Court Palace with a more critical eye. After receiving a Ph.D., I applied for countless jobs with
varying job descriptions, and my current research topic is of course beholden to the job that I eventually landed – Tudor-Stuart British History at Chico State. Working as an historian at Chico State is wonderful but it is not the same as working as a historian at a larger research university. During my first six years at Chico, I conducted research in fits and starts; carving out bits of time and money to conduct research at the Huntington Library in San Marino, or at archives in Britain and France. A major research project gradually coalesced and I received a sabbatical in Fall 2013 to advance my research into the lives and writings of François-Nicolas Baudot, seigneur du Buisson et d’Aubenay, and Thomas Dineley. I also received funding to support a research trip to the Bibliothèque Mazarine and Bibliothèque nationale de France, and in May I found myself reading bundles of seventeenth-century manuscripts. The work was invigorating but a voice in my head grew louder and louder: “In January your sabbatical will be over and what will you have to show for it?” The best case scenario, I decided, was that I could find and read most of the relevant sources by January. But what then? At that point I remembered an overdue email from Associate Dean (and friend and colleague) Robert Tinkler asking me for a title for a public lecture on March 26, 2014, and I came to a realization that I wouldn’t be ready to deliver a lecture on my research project. Meanwhile, while trying to think of a good title for a public lecture, I was spending the evenings in Paris writing overdue book reviews. I remember reviewing Tudorism: Historical Imagination and the Appropriation of the Sixteenth Century for the Journal of British Studies when it dawned on me that five centuries of Tudorism had taken place at Hampton Court Palace, and that a Chico audience might enjoy spending the evening learning about various commemorations of the Tudors over the years. Besides, who doesn’t want to hear about Henry and his wives? For the lecture, I proposed the title “Tudor Memories: 500 Years of Commemoration at Hampton Court Palace,” and the next morning at the Bibliothèque nationale I discovered that the topic has yet to be explored. Historians delight when they stumble upon a topic with an abundance of primary sources and no secondary sources, and from that morning on I shelved the major research project and started on one that had a better chance of coming to fruition sooner rather than later. Today, the book is halfway complete, and the other project can wait for a different moment. The Tudors were Welsh, but that’s about the extent of Wales in the new project. Or, perhaps, this history would have never been written without my having first learned Welsh and thus starting a sequence of events that led to my history of Hampton Court – a history embodying two pasts; mine and the palace’s.

Phi Alpha Theta and The History Club

During the 2013-14 academic year, the History Club and Phi Alpha Theta have new faculty advisors (Professors Lewis and Yousefi) and a new team of officers (Kellen Starmer, Emma Folta, Richard Kennedy, and Parker Wilson). Together, they have worked hard to recruit new members and generate greater interest in club activities.

In October 2013, History Club and Phi Alpha Theta members travelled to nearby Vina where they enjoyed a tour of a medieval Spanish monastery that is being reconstructed at the Abbey of New Clairvaux. Two weeks later, students were
given a guided, behind-the-scenes look at the new visitor center and museum that is being built near the Emigrant Trail Museum in Truckee. In November, the clubs organized a Careers Forum that attracted a large number of history students who enjoyed pizza while listening to several presentations on the job market for history graduates. Members also held two social get-togethers.

The highlight of the year will come this spring, when we host the Northern California Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta. On April 11-12, dozens of history honors students from various schools will converge on Chico State to share their research with fellow students and faculty. Prizes will be awarded to the top three papers in the undergraduate and graduate categories. Conference attendees will also enjoy a tour of the Bidwell Mansion. As some of you may recall, Chico State hosted the Regional Conference in 2004 and in 2008. It’s a lot of work, but our students find the experience to be fun and rewarding.

From the Archives: Recent History Master Theses

Bosse, Andrew L. (2013-10-11) Our friend the atom? the Truman administration and the campaign to sell the peaceful atom, 1945-1949


Bell, Joseph (2013-09-05) A Catholic proslavery perspective

Morey, Shane (2013-08-20) Life, blood, and oxygen: women in the Black Panther Party and the American Indian movement


Faculty and Staff News: 2012/2013

Bob Cottrell
I have completed a book manuscript, Sex, Drugs, and Rock ‘n Roll: The American Counterculture of the 1960s, which is the hands of my literary agent. I am working on a book on four important American radicals of the early twentieth century: Crystal Eastman, Inez Milholland, Randolph Bourne, and John Reed; they were all key figures in the first great unfolding of the American left. I am hoping to head back East this spring and summer to undertake additional archival work on those individuals, particularly to continue delving into collections at Columbia (Bourne), Radcliffe/Harvard (Eastman, Milholland), Harvard (Reed), Swarthmore, and the National Archives.

Laird Easton
I was surprised this past fall to learn that my translation of the Kessler diaries, Journey to the Abyss, was named one of the top books of 2013 by the British newspaper The Guardian, http://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/nov/23/mantel-franzen-cotton-writers-critics-best-books-2013, quite a feat considering it was published in 2011! It also received a very nice review by Jonathan Steinberg in The London Review of Books, which appeared on May 23, 2013, appropriately enough Kessler’s birthday.

The Kessler bandwagon continues. Within a few days of writing this I will have submitted the preliminary draft of the manuscript for the one-volume Spanish-language edition of the Kessler diaries I am editing for the Spanish publishing
house Acantilado. At 1,200 pages it will be the only one-volume version of the complete diaries when it appears, presumably in Fall 2015.

Recently I received an advance contract from Yale University Press for my biography of Lou Andreas-Salomé. Now I only have to write it! I spent part of June and July last summer doing the research in archives and libraries in Germany. I shall have to return there again this coming summer before embarking on my sabbatical when I hope to finish a rough draft, depending on whether I can extend the sabbatical to a full year or not.

On February 7, 2014 the exhibition on France and German Expressionism opens in the Kunsthaus in Zürich. An essay of mine appears in the accompanying catalogue, in English, German, and French. The show then moves to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art on June 4 and finally to the Museum of Fine Art in Montreal on October 11. If you should be in any of those cities during these times, check it out—the art is simply stunning!

The talk I gave at the Villa Vigoni in Italy back in September 2011 will appear in German in an edited collection published by Mentis Verlag this coming October.

**Lisa Emmerich**
Over the last year, Lisa Emmerich has written six book reviews for journals including the *Pacific Historical Review*, the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, *The Historian*, the *Western Historical Quarterly*, and the *Great Plains Quarterly*. Her article, “Promoting a Contagion of Homemaking on the Reservations: Field Matrons, Amelia Stone Quinton, and the Women’s National Indian Association” is forthcoming in Valerie Sherer Mathes and Cathleen Cahill, eds., *The Women’s National Indian Association: A History* (Texas Tech Press). She continues to serve the profession as a member of the Phi Alpha Theta Book Prize committee, the Western History Doctoral Dissertation Award committee, and the Charles Redd Book Award committee. Emmerich is continuing her research on California Indians and the politics of tribal disenrollment.

**Steve Lewis**
Sabbaticals are wonderful. Not only do they provide the time needed to polish off pending projects, but they facilitate the kind of thinking and productivity needed to make headway on new projects.

I took a semester-long sabbatical in spring 2012. This allowed me to finish off two book chapters stemming from conferences marking the centenary of the start of the Mexican Revolution (1910). I was also able to put to rest a special issue of the journal *Latin American Perspectives* that I co-edited with my colleague in Seville, Laura Giraudo. This issue is devoted to Pan-American indigenismo, or official Indian policy. Last of all, I was able to write three chapters of my never-ending saga on indigenismo in Mexico.

During summer 2012 I taught a month-long course at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid and walked the first third of the Camino de Santiago. We crossed the Pyrenees, walked through the Basque Country, Navarre, and La Rioja before stopping in Burgos. During long, hot stretches I had plenty of time to think about how ambition, religious fervor, and a touch of history worked together to create this important medieval pilgrimage route.

I returned to teaching in fall 2012 and resumed my duties as coordinator of the Latin American Studies major and minor. In fall 2013, Professor Yousefi and I became joint advisors of Phi Alpha Theta and the History Club. We and the students are gearing up to host the Northern California Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta on our campus April 11-12, 2014.

**Jeff Livingston**
When not daydreaming about retirement, Jeff Livingston continues to research the American Revolution Bicentennial of 1976. Following the retirement of Professor Dale Steiner last spring, Livingston took on the advising duties for the social science credential option, and he now believes that Steiner was underpaid for said duties. He remains enthusiastic about teaching (though less so about committee work), never ceases to be astonished that his wife, kids, and friends tolerate his affectations and eccentricities, and is cautiously optimistic that the Cincinnati Reds will again play in the World Series during his lifetime.
Mike Magliari
Professor Michael Magliari won the 2013 Louis Knott Koontz Memorial Award for his article "Free State Slavery: Bound Indian Labor and Slave Trafficking in California's Sacramento Valley, 1850-1864." Magliari's article was published in the May 2012 issue of the Pacific Historical Review. Awarded annually by the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association (PCB-AHA), the Koontz prize recognizes the best article published in the Pacific Historical Review, as judged by the PHR's editorial board.

Since last spring, Magliari has published book reviews in California History and the Pacific Historical Review. He also spent a busy year on the academic conference circuit, attending the annual meetings of the Organization of American Historians in San Francisco; the PCB-AHA in Denver; the Western History Association in Tucson; and the Agricultural History Society in Banff.

Jim Matray
In January 2013, I became Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of American-East Asian Relations, which involves securing reviewers for submissions and editing the approved manuscripts for publication of four issues each year. Also, I continued working on one major research project and completed another. In Spring Semester, I finished editing essays from scholars who prepared eighteen of the thirty-two essays for a co-edited volume titled The Ashgate Research Companion to the Korean War. Submitted in June, the volume will appear in print in the summer of 2014. I reviewed for publication articles in Diplomatic History and the Journal of Cold War Studies. In April, it was a honour to accept appointment to the Board of Editors of the Journal of Northeast Asian History.

I spent much of the summer preparing PowerPoint presentations for my new course HIST 354: The United States, 1877-1945, which I will teach for the first time in Spring 2014. I also conducted research for one week at the National Archives for my forthcoming book examining the Battles of Pork Chop Hill that Indiana University Press will publish in its “Twentieth Century Battles” series. In late July, I delivered a paper titled “Eisenhower and the Korean War: Still a Matter of Debate” at the “International Conference Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement” at Korea University in Seoul, Korea. In November, I conducted a Teaching American History workshop on the Korean War for Farmington Municipal Schools in New Mexico. In December, I delivered the keynote address in Washington, DC at a conference titled “Historical Reconciliation and Prosperity in Northeast Asia: 70 Years Since the Cairo Declaration” held at the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, George Washington University.


Jason Nice
Jason received a sabbatical for the Fall 2013 semester, which he spent writing No Ordinary Memorial: Tudorism at Hampton Court Palace (working title). Having already conducted research in London, he spent much of the summer researching at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Bibliothèque Mazarine, and the Château de Fontainebleau. From July to December, Jason spent the bulk of his sabbatical in Trinity 217 where he composed the first chapters of the book. He will present the main themes of his research in a public lecture on March 26 (7:30pm in the Rowland-Taylor Recital Hall). He is back in the classroom in Spring 2014, but his research continues in a redesigned History 290 (Historians and Historical Methodology) where students are developing their research skills by examining sources – especially The
Greg Pellam

This has been a very busy year for me! Between applying for jobs, making two moves (from Washington to Idaho, and then from Idaho to Chico), going through a back surgery, taking care of my ferrets, and designing six brand new classes, I have had to struggle to stay on top of my research. I have managed to get two articles accepted for publication: “Ceres, the Plebs, and libertas” is due to come out in the ancient history journal Historia in January, to be followed shortly by “A Peculiar Episode from the ‘Struggle of the Orders’? Livy and the Licinio-Sextian Rogations” in Classical Quarterly. I also have a couple of more papers under review, including one on the origins of Roman law, entitled “Sacer, Sacrosanctus, and Leges Sacraeae”, and another on the ways in which the politics of the later Roman Republic influenced the way the Roman historian Livy wrote his account of the politics of early Rome. This one is called “Populares, Optimates, and the ‘Struggle of the Orders’ in Livy”, and is based on a paper I presented back in the Spring at the annual conference of the Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest. I hope to get a few more papers submitted for publication over the course of next semester on related topics, as well as a not-so-related paper on the role of Hector in the Iliad, inspired by the discussions I had with my students in History 301 (Ancient Greece). Finally, I continue to plug away at my book project, which incorporates a series of studies on the development of the Roman state and the ways in which later Romans understood their early history. In the Spring, in addition to my normal teaching load, I will be guiding students in private tutorials covering the first-year grammar of Latin and will also be leading a weekly discussion group on the dialogues of Plato. Chico State’s history majors and graduate students have proven to be a lively and challenging group of thinkers, and I am looking forward to another semester of working with them!

Robert Tinkler

In the spring of 2013, I had the great fortune to hold a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship in the Department of American Studies at the University of Innsbruck. My students—mainly Austrians, but also Italians, Germans, a Czech, and a Syrian—joined me in three classes that dealt with the U.S. Civil War, the Civil Rights Era, and Southern Literature. I found the students to be bright, engaged, and quite knowledgeable about American history and culture. My Austrian colleagues could not have been more warm and welcoming, and I even joined their trivia team for a series of contests at one of Innsbruck’s Irish pubs. I also took the opportunity to travel a bit in central Europe, including an especially meaningful visit to Auschwitz.

During the fall semester, I presented papers at two conferences, the “UnCivil Wars Forum” at the University of Georgia in October and a late November meeting on “Regionalism(s): Lessons from Europe and the Americas” back at the University of Innsbruck. At Chico, I continue to split my time between teaching in the History Department and serving as interim associate dean in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Kate Transchel

Over the last year my work on human trafficking has really taken off. I began 2013 with a research trip to Moscow, Russia and Kyiv, Ukraine to finish the last of the research needed for my book on human trafficking from Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova. Drawing upon interviews of victims of human trafficking and their rescuers, the book is an oral history of modern-day slavery from the former Soviet Union.

Indeed, I greeted the New Year in Moscow with old friends, marveling at the changes I have seen in that country since I first journeyed there in 1989. As we watched the fireworks over Red Square at midnight, we reminisced on the possibilities lost and paths taken by Russia and Russians since the collapse of the Soviet Union. It was not lost upon me that I was there to research one of the most pressing human rights issues of the 21st century triggered largely by
the end of the Soviet Union. In many respects, the dissolution of the Soviet Empire marked the beginning of a new phase of global human slavery from Eurasia.

From Moscow I went to Kyiv, Ukraine for 10 days to finish some interviews for the book that I had not gotten on my last trip there. Ukraine in January 2013 gave no hint of the violence that would erupt in Kyiv in November over Ukraine’s future as a client state of Russia, or a partner of the EU. Many of my Ukrainian friends joined the opposition movement in Independence Square. Consequently, in early December, I was able to connect my Russian history class with a member of the opposition in Kyiv via SKYPE. My students were able to ask her questions and discuss the political situation with a Ukrainian as the events were unfolding.

I spent the summer translating and editing the interviews I will be using in the book. I anticipate finishing it this summer. Out of those interviews, I pulled together a paper on labor exploitation that I presented in November in Boston at the annual meeting of the American Society for Eurasian and East European Studies (ASEEES). Entitled “Hidden in Plain Sight: Labor Exploitation form the Former Soviet Union,” the paper addresses the issue of men and boys being trafficked for slave labor. Mine is one of the few studies that address slavery beyond sexual exploitation.

Also in November, I was invited to give a TEDx talk on modern-day slavery. The talk focuses on human trafficking in California and especially in Chico and the North State. It was very well received. You can access the talk on the History Department web page.

Finally, In 2013 STOP! (the student club, Stop Trafficking of Persons), under my guidance, sponsored the Second Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Week in March. It was a smashing success with over 1,000 students, faculty, and community members attending. We are now gearing up for our Third Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Week to be held April 14-16, 2014. Mark your calendars—this year’s conference promises to be the best yet with a list of speakers that includes survivors, authors, and celebrities, as well as law enforcement, government officials, and service providers.

Najm A. Yousefi
In my first year at Chico State (2012–2013), I taught “Islam and the World” (HIST 261/RELS 202) and a two-sequence Middle Eastern History, “The Middle East before 1800” (HIST 362) and “The Middle East after 1800” (HIST 363). The Middle Eastern History sequence has now been added to the International Studies General Education Pathway. I have also started to coordinate the Middle East Studies Minor and am pleased to see that more students are declaring this minor. During the summer 2013, I co-taught, with Dr. Tugrul Keskin of Portland State University, a study abroad program in Turkey (June 15–July 7). We were fortunate to have an excellent group of students, including two Chico State students, who enjoyed learning about Turkish society, culture, and politics while visiting several cities and many historic sites. While in Istanbul, I spent several days at the Sulaymanieh library, exploring Islamic manuscripts in land tax and the occult sciences, and managed to obtain copies of few unpublished manuscripts. I intend to incorporate these manuscripts into my research on land tax, early Islamic court literature, and the role of astrology and alchemy in invigorating Islamic science during the medieval period. On the research front, I received a faculty development grant to do research in the fall 2013. The grant has provided me with a course release, which allows me to work on my ongoing research on Islamic land tax.

Alum News

Arlene Farley, BA 1968
I taught elementary school, primarily 4th grade, for 38 years before retiring in June 2008. My husband, a retired Naval Aviator, passed away in 2000. I have six stepchildren and seven grandchildren. Live in Lodi, CA. Since retiring I have joined the Daughters
of the American Revolution, Lodi Republican Women (am currently 1st Vice President), Woman’s Club and Lodi, and have learned to play bridge which takes up a lot of time since I play in several groups. I also work with several charities in the area including Lodi Adopt-a-Child. I am a life long SF 49er fan and have had season tickets to the SF Giants since 1986. I was there for all the playoff games in 2000, 2002, 2003, 2010 and 2012. The last two times were the best. I am the mother of two Siamese kittens, Hunter (Pence) and Buster (Posey). While teaching 4th grade I found that at every text book cycle the history of California was being ‘dumbed’ down. With my history background, I was able to fill in the gaps. I also have a Master’s Degree in Education, Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in technology from Sac State.

**Meghan O’Donnell, BA 2009, MA 2011**
I graduated from CSU Chico with a BA and an MA in History. I am currently entering my fourth year as a lecturer of US History at California State University, Monterey Bay (it’s seriously been that many years?!). This has been an exciting and demanding year. I am teaching a wide array of amazing courses including US Political History, African American History and Life, Introduction to Politics and a course on Social Movements. I’ve also become more involved in our local chapter of CFA and have been working on expanding lecturer rights and representation at CSUMB. Aside from teaching, much of my energy has focused on research and writing. I am a contributing author to the forthcoming *Women in American History: A Social, Political, and Cultural Encyclopedia* by ABC-Clio, due out in 2015. I am also awaiting word on my application for a summer grant to research westward expansion and the Constitution in the early American republic at the National Endowment for the Humanities institute in Oklahoma. And finally, beyond work, I have begun the formidable task of training for my first triathlon!

**Garret Root, BA 2009**
I graduated from CSU, Chico with a BA in History and a Certificate in Public History in 2009 and a MA in Public History from CSU, Sacramento in 2011. While in graduate school I began working at JRP Historical Consulting, now nearly four years later I am still there. The research techniques and knowledge passed on by Professor Magliari is something I use daily, from deed research at local county repositories to working in archives to using a microfilm reader. Over the past two years I have been working on a JRP project for Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E). PG&E was decommissioning the historically significant Humboldt Bay Power Plant, which was the first privately funded, commercial nuclear power plant. For that project, I wrote a Historic American Engineering Record, which is now included in the Library of Congresses collection. In addition I also conducted and transcribed 12 oral histories, designed and curated a museum exhibit for the Clarke Historical Museum in Eureka, CA, and I wrote and designed the book *From Sawdust to Uranium: the History of Power Generation in Humboldt County and Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s Humboldt Bay Power Plant, 1883-2019* which was printed this fall. I continue to work on interesting projects all across the state including historic surveys for the Navy of the former Fort Rosecrans in San Diego, California’s High Speed Rail in Fresno and Bakersfield, and the extension of the BART line into San Jose among others. I was recently elected to the Sacramento Old City Association’s (SOCA) board of directors. SOCA is the city’s oldest historic preservation advocacy group, I am looking forward to providing input and learning more about Sacramento’s history. In my free time I have been researching California’s involvement in the Civil War, specifically working with my brother-in-law on creating a living history group that interprets the California Volunteers and militia units.
Contributions

If you are so inclined, you may contribute directly to the Department or to specific student scholarships. Write me if you want to see the list of scholarships: leaston@csuchico.edu All contributions are tax-deductible, of course.

Checks should be made out to: “CSU, Chico, History Department”. Our mailing address is:
Department of History
ATTN: Chair
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0735

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