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People sometimes ask historians what the lessons of history are. Is there anything policy makers or politicians can learn from history to guide them in their decisions? It's a fair question and a difficult one to answer. In fact, there would appear to be very few if any general laws of history. In my classes I sometimes joke that the only universally valid historical lesson is: never invade Russia! And yet, pondering the public discourse about the horrific recent bombings at the Boston Marathon, I realized once again one of the values of history. Many reactions to the tragedy in Boston suggest that the bombings – and other recent acts of terror, whether thwarted or enacted, whether inspired by radical Islam or by right-wing paranoia – are part of an unprecedented wave of public violence. Many suggest that these shocking events represent a world gone mad, that we have entered into a permanent state of emergency, are engaged in a never-ending war against fanatical terrorists. Yet, as a recent editorial in *The New York Times* pointed out, public acts of violence were much more common both in this country and in Europe in the 1970s. When one thinks of organizations like the Weathermen, the Symbionese Liberation Army, the IRA, the *Rote Armee Fraktion* in Germany, the *brigade rosse* in Italy, and the Palestinian Black Hand, this point becomes abundantly clear. But even earlier, in the period I study, the turn of the last century, both America and Europe were rocked by a series of violent events inspired by anarchism. Consider the assassination of President McKinley, of the

French President Carnot, the bombing of the French Chamber of Deputies, the 1919 bombing of Wall Street that resulted in 38 deaths and 143 people injured, and many other anarchist "outrages." Naturally there were and are important differences between all of these incidents and certainly the nature of modern technology makes some acts of terror today disproportionately alarming. The events of 9/11 were impossible at the turn of the last century. But it is useful, I think, to recall these earlier waves of public violence and to understand that they come and go, they have a history, they are probably not permanent features of our lives today any more than they were destined to be in the 1890s. This much history can teach us.

Other useful lessons from the past were imparted at the very interesting History Roundtable discussion on the history of higher education in California. John Aubrey Douglass, a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Studies in Higher Education at UC-Berkeley, joined President Paul Zingg (an ex officio member of the History Department, I never tire of mentioning) on stage in the Ruth Rowland-Taylor auditorium to discuss the genesis and history of California's famous Master Plan for higher education. I found this to be an exceptionally illuminating discussion and another example of how a knowledge of history can inform helpfully a debate.

In the same vein, the Eleven Annual Joanna Dunlap Cowden Memorial Lecture, delivered in October by Professor Michael Ross from the University of Maryland, presented a fascinating case study of not only how a post-Civil War Supreme Court legal decision had the opposite effect that its chief architect wanted, serving to undermine the rights of African-Americans in the South, but also has shaped important Supreme Court cases to this very day. In February I gave a History Public Lecture entitled "The Adventure of Adventure: History of an Obsession in Western Culture" in which I tried to argue for a special elective affinity between the idea of adventure and Western civilization and to suggest some of its consequences. Finally in March, Ken Rose spoke about his forthcoming book, *Unspeakable Awfulness: America Through The Eyes of European Travelers, 1865-1900* (Routledge, July 2013). In his witty talk, Ken showed how European observers in the second half of the nineteenth century forged enduring ideas about "the American character." Videos of all four of these talks and roundtables can be found by clicking on this [link](#):

This year has been one of many departures, alas, and only one arrival. But this latter was a very important arrival indeed as this fall we welcomed Najma Yousefi to the Department as our new Middle East historian. You can read all about him in the next section.

Back in December we received the sad news about Don Lillibridge who passed away on December 21 at the heroic age of 91. Don arrived in Chico with his freshly minted doctorate from Wisconsin in 1952. He taught here until his retirement in 1981, serving as chair of the department during some tumultuous times, publishing a number of highly regarded books, and being selected in 1972 as the CSU Trustee's Outstanding Professor. He was an early opponent of the war in Vietnam and ran unsuccessfully for Congress on an anti-war platform. Don's views were informed by his own experience of service as a young Marine officer in the Second World War. He was the only surviving officer of his battalion in his first engagement at the Battle of Tarawa in the Pacific. Later he was very badly wounded in the Battle of Saipan.

I will never forget inviting Don to talk in my summer school class on World War II. He was retired then but he agreed to do it. Just by chance it happened to be the fiftieth anniversary almost to the day of the Battle of Saipan. Not knowing this, I showed some color footage of the battle to my students. Don then delivered what must be the most gripping account of the war in the Pacific I have ever heard. He did this with his trademark verve, wit, and self-deprecation. During the break I went to join him outside of Butte Hall. He told me that the wounds he received had begun once again to bother him after seeing the battle scenes and he was smoking a rare cigarette to calm down. His opposition to the war in Vietnam was born of a hard school.

Although I only came to know him long after his retirement, Don was an active, energetic presence in the community. He had an amazing range of acquaintances across the nation and was a splendid raconteur. Rest in peace, Professor Lillibridge. You will be missed.

Meanwhile the Department continues to shrink due to retirements without sufficient faculty being hired to replace them. It will be hard to find a replacement for Dale Steiner who will retire in a few weeks. Dale was chair when I first arrived here. I remember being astonished at how someone who was so efficient with the paperwork could have a desk that looked like a typhoon had just passed over it. He has a national reputation when it comes to educating our students to teach in the high schools, successfully applied for a number of very important Teaching American History grants, and was the recipient of both the Outstanding Teacher and the Outstanding Advisor awards from the University. His concern for his credential option students was legendary not only here in Chico but across the state.

Finally, I regret to also have to announce the departure of our wonderful junior colleague, Jessica Clark, who has done an outstanding job of teaching our classical history courses over the last five years. Florida State University made her and her husband Kyle an offer they simply could not refuse.

## Meet Our New Faculty: Najm A. Yousefi



### Vital Information

Birthplace: Tehran, Iran

### Education:

PhD Virginia Tech 2009

MA Columbia University 1996

BA Shahid Beheshti University (former National University of Iran) 1991

*What is your primary research interest currently?*

My primary research interest lies in the first two centuries of the Arab Empire in the Fertile Crescent and Iran. I am particularly interested in how expert knowledge (legal, technical, administrative) lent support to the building of the Arab empire.

*What or who aroused your interest in this field?*

I was initially interested in the origins of Islamic science, especially the translation of Greek and Persian scientific texts that took place between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. Soon I realized that the origins of Islamic science, both historical and conceptual, had to be sought in cultural exchanges between the

Arab conquerors and conquered peoples during the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries. A major portion of the exchange, however, consisted of political wisdom and technical know-how, rather than “science” as we know it. My interest, then, shifted to broader areas of “knowledge production,” how systems of knowledge projected visions of social order, and how these systems enlisted the state and society.

*What other topics within your general area interest you?*

Islamic taxation, especially land tax, and knowledge-producing elite in the medieval Middle East comprise two major areas of my research.

*What courses do you enjoy teaching the most?*

I very much like “Islam and the World” which I just taught for the first time in the fall 2012. It allowed me to address both historical trends and specific issues in the Islamic world.

*Are there any courses you would like to develop?*

I would like to develop upper division courses in “Islamic Political Thought,” “Law, State and Society in the Middle East,” and “Islamic Science.”

*What aspect of living in Chico has surprised you the most?*

For nearly 18 years I have lived in several communities in the United States, but nowhere have I seen such a strong sense of community as in Chico.

*If there were one thing you could do to improve the quality of life in Chico, what would it be?*

I would make the bus transit system more reliable ☺

## Faculty Research: Kate Transchel on Human Trafficking in Russia and Eastern Europe



For the last several years I have been researching human trafficking from Eastern Europe. In 2010 I received a grant from the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) to interview survivors of human trafficking in Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova for my current book project – an oral history of modern-day slavery from the former Soviet Union. That June I went to Kharkiv, Ukraine where I heard about a non-government organization (NGO) that was doing exceptional work at rescuing and rehabilitating women who had been sold into sexual slavery. Intrigued, I contacted the director, Marina S., and arranged an interview. The following is her story.

### Marina's Story

On a beautiful summer day in Kharkiv my driver pulled into the parking lot of the Ukrainian NGO, *Path to Freedom*. I looked forward to interviewing the founder, Marina S., for my current project – an oral history of human trafficking from Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova.

Interviewing victims of trafficking and their rescuers is difficult work. There are few happy endings. However, occasionally one meets someone who emerges from unspeakable suffering with courage, clarity, and wisdom. Marina is such a woman.

Having asked how she got involved in anti-trafficking work, I was unprepared for her answer. "In 2001 my sister and I were trafficked to Belgium for sexual exploitation." In a matter-of-fact voice she related how, after six months imprisonment and sexual slavery, she was allowed one call to her mother. When her mother didn't answer, Marina called a neighbor and learned that her mother was desperately ill and quite possibly dying.

Sick with worry for her mother, Marina became despondent. The johns (men who frequented the brothel) complained about her depressed state, and her owner became more threatening and violent. Feeling she had nothing left to lose, Marina begged her owner to let her and her sister go home. Finally, he relented and gave the sisters a choice: one could leave but the other must stay. The sisters had to make the agonizing decision of who would go. Since Marina was younger and more vulnerable – she was only 21--they decided that she should go. The traffickers assured her that if she contacted the

police or failed to return, they would kill her sister. They took her to Germany and dumped her on a train to Kyiv. She had no luggage, no travel documents, and only \$50 for the bus to Kharkiv from Kyiv.

It was an arduous ordeal but she finally made it to Kharkiv. Once free, Marina decided she had to try to save her sister, despite the risks. She contacted local authorities who worked with law enforcement in Belgium to raid the brothel, rescue the women, and arrest the traffickers.

Both Marina and her sister received physical and psychological rehabilitation through the International Organization for Migration. Having survived trafficking, repatriation, and rehabilitation, they believed they were uniquely qualified to help other trafficked victims. They discussed starting an NGO to locate and assist trafficked women.

The sisters agreed to testify against their traffickers. Typically, victims don't testify for fear of retribution. Sadly, before the case came to trial, Marina's sister died in a suspicious car accident. Many would expect Marina to give up, but her sister's death strengthened her resolve.

Nine years later, the case still has not come to trial, yet Marina persists in aiding prosecution of the case. Her NGO, *Path to Freedom*, is a leader in public information and outreach. At any time of the day or night, one of Marina's three phones might ring sending her off to god-knows-where to meet another terrified escapee. Her unflinching commitment to

use her personal nightmare for the benefit of others  
is truly heroic.

## Phi Alpha Theta and The History Club



This past year the History Club and Phi Alpha Theta have been busy! Led by President Nicole MacDougall and advised by Professors Clark and Campbell, Phi Alpha Theta and History Club members helped organized a number of interdisciplinary events that attracted a record number of students from across campus. The Club co-sponsored two events, in particular, that were attended by more than 300 people! The first, in conjunction with S.T.O.P (<http://www.csuchico.edu/stop/>), was a screening of 'Call + Response' followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker Justin Dillon (<http://www.callandresponse.com/>) The event helped raise awareness of human trafficking and modern day slavery. The Club also sponsored a talk on the environmental and health impacts of U.S. foreign policy by the President of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), Dr. Robert Gould, M.D. (<http://www.psr.org/>). It, too, packed the house. This past fall, Dr. Nice joined Dr. Campbell as a faculty co-advisor, and together with new Club leadership kicked-off the year with another fall trip to San Francisco. After mingling, eating, and listening to a lecture at Professor Campbell's home, Dr. Transchel led a wonderful and informative tour of the Russian district (thank you Professor Transchel!). Since, the Club has organized a number of trivia nights and a "Job Forum" workshop. More fun to come next year....

Taylor McQuilliams and Sean Painter, PAT,  
Conference, April 2013

## From the Archives: Recent History Master Theses

Let's celebrate that doughty group of history graduate students doggedly digging in the libraries and archives, reading and thinking, writing and rewriting, doing the heavy work of history-making. Our graduate studies coordinator, Jason Nice, has sent me this list of links to recent master's theses written by our graduate students. I, for one, am very proud of the range and depth they evince. Take a peek!

[A passive aggressive power: the U.S. confronts Russia over Manchuria, 1898-1905](#)

[Ethnic Mexicans' Labor Activity in Texas: Class, Citizenship, and Americanization in the 1930s](#)

["To Plead Our Own Cause": The Role of the Press in the African American Reform Movement, 1794-1850](#)

[Kurt Riezler's Grundzuge der Weltpolitik in der Gegenwart: A Case Study of German Political Philosophy](#)

["More Dangerous Enemies": The Role of Nationalism in the Execution of Admiral John Byng, 1756-1757](#)

[Confederate Soldiers in the Civil War: Masculinity, War Experience, and Religion](#)

## Faculty and Staff News: 2012/2013

### Claudia Beaty

Last May, I received my master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies: Historical and Genealogical Research. I continue to enjoy digging through archives, libraries, old documents, etc., but now as a hobby and without any pressing deadlines. In about a year, I will have more time for such pursuits, and others, since I plan on retiring March 1, 2014. I will miss the hustle and bustle of the department office, as well as the faculty, staff and students I interact with throughout the school year, but am sincerely looking forward to retirement life after twenty-five years on campus.

### William Campbell

August 2012 marked the beginning of my fourth (!) year teaching at CSU Chico. During the past year, in addition to continuing to enjoy the time I spend among a growing number of colleagues and students from across the campus, I am happy to report that I finally published my first monograph - *Speculators in Empire: Iroquoia and the 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix* (New Directions in Native Studies, University of Oklahoma Press, 2012). In 2012 I also published "Surrender in the Northeastern Borderlands of Native America" in Hew Strachan and Holger Afflerbach, eds., *How Fighting Ends: A History of Surrender* (Oxford University Press), and "We Germans... are British Subjects': World War I and the Curious Case of Berlin, Ontario, Canada" in *Canadian Military History*. I was also fortunate to be invited to deliver a book talk at the University of Dundee in Scotland this past February, and look forward to doing the same this coming November in Pittsburgh.

### Jessica H. Clark

Coming to the middle of my fifth year with the History Department, and all a Roman historian can say is '*tempus fugit!*' This fall, Chico's revised General Education program went into action, and as Coordinator of the Great Books & Ideas Pathway I can report with some relief that all seems to be proceeding swimmingly. I've contributed to an

ABC-Clio online database, on the topic of why the Carthaginians did not win the Second Punic War. Also, I'm currently revising for publication an article on the Latin historian Livy and the political uses of military intelligence in the Roman Republic, which grew out of a paper I presented at the American Philological Association's Annual Meeting. And -- looking forward to another beautiful spring in Chico!

### Laird Easton

Last spring my edited translation of the Kessler diaries, *Journey to the Abyss*, continued to receive prominent reviews. John Rockwell, the longtime critic for *The New York Times* wrote a particularly lovely one in *The Threepenny Review*. Other reviews appeared in *The Spectator* (London) and *The Australian*, but the best of all, the *nec plus ultra*, was the featured review by Alex Ross in the April 23, 2012 issue of *The New Yorker*. Brilliantly written, generous, and witty, this review simply got both Kessler and his journals right. In July Philip Adams interviewed me for an hour on the Australian Broadcasting Company. Here's the [link](#): Just a few days ago Random House issued the paperback version of the journal, which at \$22, comes to only 2.3 cents per page!

In other news I was invited to serve on the Hans Rosenberg Prize committee which selects the best book published in Central European history. I used the opportunity to attend the American Historical Association meeting in New Orleans in January, the first time I had visited that intriguing city. Recently I signed a contract to edit and introduce a Spanish translation of the diaries for the Acantilado imprint of the Spanish publisher Cuaderns Crema. In my continual effort to escape the shadow of Kessler, I gave a public lecture on "The Adventure of Adventure: History of an Obsession in Western Culture," which was well received. And this summer I shall be travelling to Europe, supported by a Summer Research stipend granted by the CSU-Chico Resarch Foundation, to begin work on a biography of Lou Andreas-Salomé. Finally, no

account of my works and days is complete without mentioning that I finished the much-dreaded Five Year Review of the department, mostly written last summer.

### **Susan Green**

Susan Green is currently serving as Chair of the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) and as its Editor for *NACCS@40: Celebrating Scholarship and Activism*. In the spring of 2012 she was awarded the California Teachers' Association WHO Higher Education Award for her work bridging K-12 and higher education. She also received the CSU Chico Walking the Line Award for combining academics and social justice. This past year she reviewed works for *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* and *Hispanic American Historical Review*. She also completed work for *Multicultural America* edited by Carlos E. Cortes and J. Geoffrey Golson.

### **Jeff Livingston**

Jeff Livingston returns to full-time regular duties after an invigorating sabbatical leave during fall semester, 2012. During the sabbatical he continued his research on the American Revolution Bicentennial of 1976 and also caught up on some long overdue reading on scholarship related to his regular teaching assignments.

### **Mike Magliari**

Michael Magliari continues to move forward, slowly but surely, with his research on Indian slavery in gold rush California. He published an article, "Free State Slavery: Bound Indian Labor and Slave Trafficking in California's Sacramento Valley, 1850-1864," in the May 2012 issue of the *Pacific Historical Review* and presented a paper entitled "California's 'Peculiar Institution': Indian Slavery During the Gold Rush and Civil War Eras" to the California Historical Society's Symposium on California and the Civil War, held in San Francisco last September. Magliari also gave two presentations on his research as the Grace Griffen Fund Guest Lecturer at the University of Nevada, Reno, in March 2012. At UNR, Magliari spoke on "Indian Slavery in the American West, 1848-1867" and on "The Disastrous Case of State and Federal Indian Policy in California, 1850-1870." Magliari also published a review of George Harwood Phillips's

new book, "Vineyards and Vaqueros: Indian Labor and the Economic Expansion of Southern California, 1771-1877," in the August 2012 issue of *Labor History*.

### **Jim Matray**

This past year has been among my most productive in scholarly productivity. But the highlight of 2012 for me was the birth of my first grandchild, Theodore James Matray, on 12 September. Meanwhile, I continued working on two major projects and completed another. During Spring Semester, I finished editing the galley proofs of fifteen essays in an anthology that Truman University Press published in June titled *Northeast Asia and the Legacy of Harry S. Truman: Japan, China, and the Two Koreas*. During Fall Semester, I began editing the first submissions from scholars preparing eighteen of the thirty-two essays for a co-edited volume titled the *Ashgate Research Companion to the Korean War*. My report advised Palgrave Macmillan on a book publication decision and I refereed articles for *Diplomatic History* and *Diplomacy and Statecraft*.

I spent much of the summer conducting research for my forthcoming book examining the Battles of Pork Chop Hill, to be published by Indiana University Press in its "Twentieth Century Battles" series. My work agenda included the preparation of over ninety annotations of books and articles for inclusion in my chapter on the Korean War in the on-line version of *American Foreign Relations Since 1600: A Guide to the Literature*. In June, I traveled to Daegu, Korea to deliver a paper titled "Serendipitous Savior: Harry S. Truman's Reasons for Intervening in the Korean War" at a conference the Korea Army Academy at Yeong-cheon sponsored. In August, I delivered a paper titled "Eisenhower and Korea: Still a Matter of Debate" at a session of the annual convention of the American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch in San Diego, California.

As for publications, my articles "Irreconcilable Differences?: Realism and Idealism in Cold War Korean-American Relations" appeared in the *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* and "Mixed Message: The Korean Armistice Negotiations at Kaesong" in the *Pacific Historical Review*. "Conflicts in Korea" appeared in *A Companion to Harry S. Truman* and "Korea and Anti-Communist Policies in

East Asia" in *The Guide to U.S. Foreign Policy: A Diplomatic History*. In addition to the posting of three book reviews on *H-Net Reviews*, I published two others in the *Journal of Contemporary History* and *Pacific Affairs*. My essay titled "The Korean War 101: Causes, Course, and Conclusion of the Conflict" appeared in *Education About Asia*. Currently in press for publication in 2012 are two articles, an essay, two reviews, and two book commentaries. Finally, it was an honor to direct the finished Masters thesis of Kevin J. Dewey titled "Attempting the Impossible: Reconciling American Imperial Culture and Colonial Reality after the Spanish-American War, 1897-1905" and of Garron M. Telep titled "A Passive Aggressive Power: The United States Confronts Russia, 1989-1905."

### **Jason Nice**

I received a one-semester sabbatical, beginning this August, to complete a manuscript on the seventeenth-century writings of Thomas Dineley [Dingley] and François-Nicolas Baudot, sieur Dubuisson-Aubenay. These two relatively obscure intellectuals shadowed government agents during travels around Europe, and a comparison of their observations reveal interesting similarities and differences between seventeenth-century England and France. This summer, I will spend a month reading the Dubuisson-Aubenay manuscripts at the Bibliothèque Mazarine in Paris, followed by several weeks at the Huntington Library in Pasadena.

Since receiving tenure, I've continued to teach a World History survey course every semester, and most recently have overhauled the way that I teach our department's methods course to place a greater emphasis upon digital history. Thanks to the internet, students today have access to far more sources than at any point in history, though with this access comes the problem of sifting through mountains of information. Therefore, my students now learn how to conduct online research more efficiently by using websites like Diigo and Zotero to collect, organize and share information. By the end of the course, in addition to completing a traditional research paper, students construct a website or blog to share their research.

Finally, as graduate coordinator, I invite you to consider pursuing an MA in History. The

application period for Fall 2013 admission has completed, but please contact me if you're interested in applying to our MA program for Fall 2014.

### **Dale Steiner**

When Dale Steiner cleans out his office in Trinity Hall at the end of the semester, it will mark the end of a teaching career at Chico that began in the Spring of 1974. It will not, however, signal any lapse in his interest in history teaching and learning: on March 1 Steiner will begin a three year term as chair of the National Council for History Education (NCHE).

Founded in 1990, and with a membership of over 3,000, the NCHE is a non-profit membership organization that advocates on behalf of history education, conducts professional development programs for teachers, and holds a highly regarded annual conference attended by history teachers, professors, authors, and enthusiasts.

### **Tim Sistrunk**

This past year, I continued to find ways to bring an historian's perspective to questions about the sustainable use of goods and services from the natural environment. I presented my own research about medieval European legal approaches to these issues at a symposium of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts in April. The presentation, "The Natural World of Bartolus of Sassoferrato and the Making of Western Environmental Law" treated the work of one of the most famous jurists of the age, whose ideas have come down to our own time and affected our own legal understanding of the spaces we inhabit. I have also learned a great deal thinking about ways to enrich my courses with electronic tools and distance educational techniques. These bore fruit in a number of my Fall courses that are parts of the new Sustainability Pathway. Most interestingly, students in my American Environment course spent their semester researching the environmental histories of their hometowns and sharing their writing with each other via the internet. This culminated in December in a public event that was called "A Sense of Place" in which my students presented their histories to other students from other courses in the Pathway. The whole exercise underlined the immediate and essential perspectives that historical understanding lends to the appreciation of the complexities of a sustainable future.

### Robert Tinkler

In the last year, my time has been divided between the History Department and new responsibilities as an associate dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts (an interim appointment). Despite not being in Trinity Hall full time, I've still managed some History-related work. In addition to teaching courses on the Civil War and the American South, I gave a talk in the department's History Lecture series on "Lincoln's Loyalists," which focused on my research into southern Unionists and other Confederate dissenters. My review of a new book on a key fugitive slave law case, *Prigg v. Pennsylvania*, will appear soon in the *Journal of Southern History*. I also reviewed articles for *The Journal of the Historical Society* and *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*. And soon I'll be heading off to the University of Innsbruck (Austria), courtesy of a Fulbright Fellowship, to teach three American Studies courses. More about that in the Spring 2014 newsletter.

### Kate Transchel

This last year I was able to near completion of my book, *Hidden in Plain Sight: An Oral History of Human Trafficking from the Former Soviet Union*. I anticipate finishing it this summer. Much like in 2011, my research on human trafficking continued to attract attention and interest over the last year. Consequently, I had numerous requests for speaking engagements on human trafficking here and abroad. I was also interviewed for two different films: One, *Someone You Know*, by Jesse Dizard is a documentary of violence against women on the CSU Chico campus. The other is a documentary on Russian organized crime for the Discovery Channel.

As co-faculty advisor to the student club S.T.O.P. (Stop Trafficking of Persons), I was able to help organize CSU Chico's first annual Human Trafficking Awareness Week in April. It was wildly successful, with over 300 students attending the various events. We had an award-winning documentarian, Mimi Chakarova preview her film *The Price of Sex* on sex trafficking from the Balkans; a number of speakers from non-governmental organizations working with victims of trafficking, and an internationally acclaimed musician show his "rockumentary" on human trafficking.

We are currently putting together the Second Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Week to take place March 25-29. It will be a week-long series of lectures, documentaries, guest speakers and roundtables that will be free and open to the public.

Finally, December 28, 2012 I packed my warmest gear and headed for Russia and Ukraine for four weeks to finish some final interviews for my book. The trip was quite successful, but nobody does cold like the Russians...

### Najm A. Yousefi

The year 2012 was full of excitement for me as I concluded my job search by accepting an offer from Chico State for a tenure-track position in Middle East History and Islam. I am pleased to have been the Middle East historian – indicated toward the end of the *Chair's Corner* of the spring 2012 *History News* – that the search committee elected to fill the position. I have been delighted to meet many colleagues and students who take interest in my teaching and research. "The Middle East before 1800" (HIST 362) and "Islam and the World" (HIST 261/RELS 202) were two courses that I taught in the fall 2012. I also took over as the new coordinator of the Middle East Studies Minor and started working with colleagues in History and other departments to revamp the minor by creating new courses and learning activities that may interest greater number of Chico State students. To that end, I proposed a new GE course, titled "Introduction to Middle East Studies" (MEST 110) which, subject to final approval, will be offered as early as the spring 2014. I also managed to redesign the "Modern Middle East" (HIST 464) as the second half of Middle Eastern History, titled "the Middle East after 1800" (HIST 363). In the spring 2013 I will be joining the Humanities Center lecture series on "Revolutions" by giving a talk on the idea of a revolution in Shia political thought and the making of the 1979 Iranian Revolution. I will also give a talk at the International Forum where I will discuss prospects of reform and change in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Meanwhile, I am co-organizing, with Prof. Tugrul Keskin of Portland State University, a study abroad program in Istanbul for the summer 2013, which will also provide me with an opportunity to explore Islamic manuscripts at the Sultan Sulayman and Hagia

Sophia libraries. I am currently working on a paper on a novel Persian solution to the eighth century political crisis of the caliphate. I am also expanding my research on legal structure of land tax in

seventh- and eighth-century Iraq as part of revising my Ph.D. dissertation for publication.

## Alum News

### Andrew Bennett, BA History/Political Science 2003

This year will mark the 10-year anniversary of my graduation and moving away from Chico. Although I did not get work in my field of study, my connections from Chico got me my current career. I am currently working as a Broadcast Engineer at KSWB-TV in San Diego.

The way I got from History to Broadcast Engineering is an interesting one. History has always been my favorite subject, even today. Although I am not doing any continuing education, I am voraciously collecting and reading works on the fur trade and early exploration of the American West up to the start of the Mexican-American War. I can thank Bernard De Voto's *Across the Wide Missouri* and my Geography of the American West class at Chico for sending me down that path.

Shortly after graduation, I was working at FedEx when one of my classmates who had studied Media Arts offered me a job working at Sportvision, the company most famous for applying the yellow first down line and down and distance graphics on televised football games. He knew from my internship at KCSC, from the work I had done in bands and DJing, with my side job as a machinist assistant, and general computer knowledge that I would be a perfect candidate for the combined Television Engineering and Production that is required with Sportvision. I traveled around the country every weekend for 2 years working different baseball and football games until Sportvision and learned a lot. With my immediate post-graduation road trip and Sportvision work I am proud to say I've been to 43 out of the 50 states now.

I continued to work for Sportvision for two more years at their main office in Mountain View, CA, balancing the odd hours with surfing and my commute from Santa Cruz, CA. I was in charge of

the video engineering for the lab at Sportvision, keeping all of the varied field broadcast equipment in good repair, running operations and technical support for the football products, and installing Pitch Tracking systems for Minor League Baseball teams. In the meantime I met and married my wife, Monica, who had moved from Michigan and met and became friends with more of my friends from Chico who in turn introduced me to her.

Although I was working in the Sportvision office, I was still travelling a good amount. Thanks to other Chico friends, I had been introduced to North County San Diego while in school and I knew I wanted to end up in that area eventually. I stumbled upon a Broadcast Engineer opening at KSWB-TV in San Diego, applied, and within a month was moved from Santa Cruz and into a new career.

While in San Diego we welcomed our son Bodie who is now two years old. I continue to do side work (and some traveling) for Sportvision and just finished building a new Master Control at my station here while continuing to support a morning newscast that is 100% local and defeats even the national shows such as GMA and Today in the all-important Nielsen ratings. Besides working hard, I make sure to find free time to surf, play guitar, hike, watch baseball and football, and most importantly, read.

### Tom Cardoza, BA 1988

Thanks so much for your message. It's always nice to hear from CSUC History, especially after all these years. Since higher education in Nevada I am currently on the job market and interviewing at universities around the country for a professor position, so there is really no "news" as yet from me. If and when I land a new position, I'll certainly let you know for future issues. Likewise, I have a book manuscript for my second book with my press now

for consideration, but again, no real news as of yet. Book #3 (on female soldiers in the Age of Revolution) is under way, but it will be 1-2 years before it is complete. I'm sorry to write with a message that essentially reads "I have no news," but I did want to reply and to say that I continue to look back at my time at Chico State with great fondness. It is a great place, and you are very lucky to work there. I am hoping that as I go through the various on campus interviews that I will find someplace comparable to finish out my career. The *History News* is also a wonderful idea, and I do hope you continue with it.

### **Michael (Pat) Morris, BA 2004**

Hello to all you fine people in Chico State Academia!

After a 3 and 1/2-year stint as a pizza man here in town, I have finally moved on and have now been working as a loader for about 18 months at the nearby Wal Mart Distribution Center. I've been stimulating my body as opposed to my mind! On my spare time I enjoy hiking, walking and working out (once again, in light of all that physical stuff!); tinkering with both computer aided drafting and [digital] LEGO design (a new high tech twist for the creative boy in me); and, last but not least, some occasional amateur web site design and infrequent blogging. Why you may never see my work posted in an academic journal - or history department newsletter - you might see me all over the web and media someday if my final endeavor actually pays off! But fear not my former classmates, instructors, and professors alike. I still plan on including a lot of history, laymen's science, science fiction, politics, economics, international studies as well as many real world concerns in much my work. But the first dang challenge is simply to overcome all this frigging writer's block! Despite having spent more than a year trying to embrace the real world - and not to mention all the "hard knocks" that goes along with it - I'm still just thinking in circles! Maybe all you beautiful minds have encountered many of the same hurdles while in research...

Well, anyhow (sic), I hope you're all still having an intellectually and spiritually stimulating year wherever your own personal "school" or work place happens to be, and take it from me, I can't believe just how much the world *outside* of academia is in need of more creative, logical as well as *non-*

mediocre minds. (Einstein was right.) The business and government institutions - and streets - *do* seem dramatically different than the world I once knew as a student. Theory versus application as they'd say!

Rock on, all you Wildcats!

### **Meghan O'Donnell, BA 2009, MA 2011**

I graduated from CSU Chico with a BA and an MA in History. I am currently a lecturer of US History at California State University, Monterey Bay. I love my job (I can't imagine doing anything else!) because I teach a range of exciting courses like US Political Histories and Histories of Democracy. Aside from the joys (and occasional terrors) of teaching, much of this past year was dedicated to writing and research. My paper, "Negotiating Identity: Indian Assimilation and Athletics in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century" was recently published in the *American International Journal of Social Science* and I just finished an article on John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, which will be published by ABC-CLIO in 2014. In the coming months, I hope to begin new research on the radical social activism of transcendentalist communities in antebellum Massachusetts.

### **Monty Walker, M.A. 1997**

I graduated from Chico with the MA in History in 1997. I also got an MA in Geography in 2005 from Chico as well. Looking back on my hiring at Yakima College, key ingredients were my background in two academic areas and my broad exposure in Western Civ. Being an era of dismal academic budgets, Yakima College was looking for one instructor to do two disciplines (luckily for me, geography and European history). I heard some years later that one of the points that put me ahead of the competition was having academic depth in Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, Early-Modern and Modern Western Civ. From what I later gathered, the other applicants might have been strong in Modern Europe but were lacking any studies in other areas.

I enjoyed watching your video on "The Adventure of Adventure." At some point I was reminded of *Candide* and a documentary I often have students watch in which the narrator speaks of communities

of will, societies that are restless and nomadic, and communities of obedience.

Thinking of obedience, time to return to the grading.  
Who assigned all this work anyway?

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## 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](mailto:leaston@csuchico.edu) All contributions are tax-deductible, of course.

Checks should be made out to: "CSU, Chico, History Department". Our mailing address is:  
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