Chair’s Corner
Laird Easton

There’s a famous passage in Thomas Carlyle’s *The French Revolution*, which describes the young woman who played the Goddess of Reason at Robespierre’s Festival of the Supreme Being in the spring of 1793. After symbolically dethroning 2,000 years of Christianity, she goes home to have soup with her husband. The sense that life, with its humble needs and activities, continues even in the midst of turmoil, which this scene evokes, reminds me of the past year here in the History Department at California State University, Chico. We are in the throes of the greatest single crisis in the history of higher education in California, and hence the worst single financial meltdown for our little corner of it, Chico State. At the same time we continue to do the things we’ve always done, professors teaching and doing research, students studying and learning—even administrators administrating. This issue of *History News* addresses both faces of the past year: the unprecedented assault on accessible public higher education and the defiant pursuit of our profession despite the difficulties.

First the crisis. Paul Zingg is not only President of California State University, Chico; he is also a distinguished historian and hence a member of our Department. This past August, just before the school year began, he delivered a Presidential Convocation address that electrified the audience of faculty, staff, and students who heard it. It provided the single most persuasive, and damning, historical account of how our great state got itself into this mess. Paul has graciously agreed to publish a version of it here. Read it and weep.

I would only add a brief description of the concrete consequences of this failure to keep the promise of the Master Plan for Higher Education. As is perhaps well known, this year is the year of the furloughs. Everyone—faculty, staff, and administrators—took what was in effect a 10% pay cut. At the same time the workload increased dramatically as the caps on courses were raised, cramming many more students into the classroom, and as lower enrolled courses were cancelled in favor of huge surveys. Meanwhile students found their courses truncated by the furloughs just at the very moment when their tuition was being increased--yet again. Because the state does not provide nearly enough funding for the number of students in the system, thousands of high school and community college students who once
could expect to be accepted at Chico State, now have
been shut out from the possibility of continuing their
education, at least temporarily. Tragically hundreds
of adjunct faculty, many of whom had served the
university for decades with their dedicated teaching,
have been let go or have had their courses reduced
to the bare minimum. Many who still have a class to
teach have, nevertheless, lost all their benefits.
Finally, funding for research—and it’s research that
makes this a university and not, say, an exalted high
school—has been reduced to virtually nothing. I
have seen, alas, many financial crises in my 18 years
of teaching here, but I have never seen anything
remotely resembling this kind of freefall. And next
year looks worse—much worse.

Yet we soldier on, professors teaching, even
developing new courses with enthusiasm, and
pursuing their various research agendas; students
becoming interested in history, reading and writing
papers, but also participating in Phi Alpha Theta
and the History Club. What follows is necessarily
only the briefest indication of the activities deployed
by the good people—faculty, students, and staff—
here on the top floor of Trinity Hall.

Our public history events continue to flourish. On
September 30 Jason Nice delivered his History
Inaugural Lecture, entitled “The Prophecy of Merlin
on the Via di Monserrato,” a riveting talk on the
origins of Welsh national identity, to a full audience
in PAC 134. The ninth annual Joanna Dunlap
Cowden Memorial Lecture was delivered this year
by Pulitzer-Prize winning historian Daniel Howe,
again to a full and attentive house. Then on
November 9, the twentieth anniversary of the fall of
the Berlin Wall, the Department hosted a spirited
roundtable discussion on the causes and
consequences of the collapse of communism. If you
live in the area you might want to mark on your
calendar the last public history event of this
academic year: on Wednesday, February 25, at
7:30pm in PAC 134 our newest faculty member
Sandra Collins (for more on her, see below) will
speak on “Olympic Failures: The Missing 1940
Tokyo Olympic Games.” As always, the talk is free
and open to the public and will be followed by a
reception in Trinity 100.

To provide one example of the fascinating research
agendas of our faculty, I asked Jeff Livingston, one
of the Department’s most popular teachers, whose
field is the history of American foreign policy and
twentieth-century American politics and culture, to
respond to a number of questions posed to him by
students concerning his new book project: a history
of the Bicentennial Celebration of 1976. Among
other things, the subject brings up the perennial
question of the relationship between history and
memory, as well as the topic of decline, and
perceptions of decline.

Sandra Collins, our exceptional new East Asianist,
introduces herself in our Meet the New Faculty
section.

There’s further good news to report on the research
front. Mike Magliari, Western and California
history, learned at the beginning of December that
he has been awarded a prestigious National
Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship that
will, along with his sabbatical, allow him to finish
his book on Native American slavery in California.
This is the fourth NEH Fellowship the Department
has landed, a remarkable accomplishment. In
January Kate Transchel, Russian history, had her
article on the sex trade in Russia and Eastern Europe
featured on the front page of the world history
section of The Huffington Post. For more faculty
accomplishments see our Faculty News section
below.

Undaunted by the financial crisis, our student clubs,
Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honors society,
and the History Club, undertook a remarkable range
of activities. For a description of these please see the
report submitted by their dedicated faculty advisors,
Jessica Clark and Jason Nice. Dale Steiner, one of
California’s leaders in terms of supporting the
teaching of history in California’s K-12 schools, has
written a report on the annual meeting of the
California Council for History Education.

Of course this newsletter is also for those of you
who are History alumni to have a venue to report on
your lives, interests, memories, and
accomplishments. In the Alum News section you
will find the news of some of your colleagues. We
always welcome contributions and comments from
alumni/ae. Please do not hesitate to contact me at my email address: leaston@csuchico.edu.

Finally I would be remiss if I did not mention the generous financial contributions we have received over the past year. Last year’s calling campaign raised over $1,600 for the Department, the second highest amount in the HFA College, a notable achievement in the midst of an economic depression. There were also the “usual suspects” whose regular contributions allow us to do things, especially for students, that we otherwise could not. As always I must give special thanks to Barbara and John Boyle in this regard. During the holidays we also received an exceptionally generous gift from Bob McCulley to the Joanna Dunlap Cowden Memorial Lecture endowment. I am not sure I can adequately express my gratitude for this continued support, particularly in these times. If others are moved to contribute what they can to the mission of the History Department, there is information for that purpose at the end of the newsletter.

President Paul Zingg on the Crisis of Higher Education in California

“Once upon a time, you dressed so fine....”

So begins one of the most important rock and roll songs ever written, Bob Dylan’s “Like a Rolling Stone.” First recorded in 1965 – “once upon a time” -- it coincided with the launching of the California Master Plan for Higher Education, an optimistic statement about the future of our state enabled through a confident and attractive system of public higher education – “you dressed so fine.”

Re-affirmed in 1987, and again in 2004 with the so-called Governor’s Compact for Higher Education, the Master Plan offered a vision of access, affordability, and quality that was bold, inspiring, and attainable. It was predicated on the understanding that an educational system with such characteristics “is essential to the cultural, political, and economic health of a nation and state.” It assumed that public policy would support such a vision because it was right and necessary to do so.

The authors of the Master Plan recognized that as California has invented and re-invented itself over a century and a half – after the Gold Rush and through the emergence of a distinctive regional cultural in the late 19th century, through the Great Depression and the Second World War, into the post-industrial age, and beyond the dot.com revolution – higher education has provided the key to hope and recovery, to high expectations and needed corrections.

Thomas Friedman, the author of The World is Flat, summarized this particularly well in a recent New York Times column as he reflected on our country’s current economic challenges:
“The country [or state] that uses this crisis to make its population smarter and more innovative – and endows its people with more tools and basic research to invent new goods and services – is the one that will not just survive, but thrive down the road. We might be able to stimulate our way back to stability, but we can only invent our way back to prosperity. We need everyone at every level to get smarter.”

So are we still getting smarter at every level in California regarding higher education? Not if you look to our state government for signs of any evidence that they either comprehend or appreciate what this state has accomplished through a robust system of public higher education – a system that has delivered on the promise envisioned in the Master Plan and holds itself accountable to doing that.

Since 2000, while enrollments at these institutions have increased 29%, the California State University’s percentage of General Fund revenues has declined 47%. In real dollars, despite a 25% growth in state revenues over this period, including the downturn of the last three years, the CSU’s General Fund allocation has decreased from $2.25 billion to $1.6 billion.

Conversely, over this decade, and in the same small discretionary portion of the General Fund budget where higher education resides, the allocation to prisons has more than doubled from $5 billion to $11 billion. This amount roughly equals the total General Fund allocation to all of public higher education in California combined, that is, to all the campuses of the California State University, the University of California, and the community college system. In even starker terms, California spends almost $50,000 a year to support a prisoner in our state correctional system, and less than one-tenth of that a year to support a student in the California State University.

The message is clear: California’s governor and legislature – and a public which acquiesces to leadership devoid of vision and courage – have decided that higher education is depreciable and that high quality higher education is expendable.

Without this commitment, access is denied – the CSU is currently reducing its enrollments by over 40,000 full time equivalent students in order to align enrollments better with state support; affordability is decreased – student fees have gone up 100% since 2000 to compensate for the erosion of state support; diversity is threatened – especially given the changing socio-economic demographics of our state; and quality has eroded – as academic budgets have been slashed and hiring freezes deny new faculty coming to our campuses.

So, back to Dylan. Do we face “no direction home” to the vision of the Master Plan, or can we turn this crisis around?

We can. And we must.

We need to achieve a deep, functional, and guiding awareness that action without understanding has no meaning; and that understanding without action has no consequence.

We need to teach those in Sacramento, especially, but all public policy makers and shapers, our alumni, our students and their parents, our advisory boards and donors and partners, the press, what a robust system of public higher education means and accomplishes. In other words, why it is vital.

We need to press our case more urgently and strategically. We have too long sat too meekly while the governor, the legislature, the press, and other critics have blasted higher education for being bloated and wasteful and unaccountable. If those days ever existed, we are long since past a time when we assumed that resources would flow to us because we are intrinsically worthy. They flow to us because we earn them, everyday. We have to be more aggressive in telling that story.

We have to come to grips with the reality that things are not going to change in Sacramento unless we change Sacramento. We need more powerful allies and better articulated arguments to do this. Both are possible and we at Chico State are working hard on both fronts. We influenced the CSU chancellor just recently, in fact, to modify our enrollment target because we mobilized local civic and business support around a clear argument about the
relationship of our enrollments to the local economy. This can, and must, be done on a far grander scale.

I hope all whom this newsletter reaches will want to be more informed on these matters and willing to be engaged in the work ahead to protect Chico State and the larger community of public higher education in our state.

“When you ain’t got nothing, you got nothing to lose,” wrote Dylan in the final stanza of his great anthem. Well, we have something, and we have a lot to lose unless we act to save our great system of public higher education. For more than providing the foundation for the knowledge-based global economy of the 21st century and a strong social fabric, our colleges and universities foster democratic engagement, encourage altruism and community service, promote environmental stewardship, enable a healthier population, build a more sustainable solution, and solve real problems. This is our argument and it must be our future.

Faculty Research: Jeff Livingston on the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration

What inspired this project?

Some years ago I got very interested in the decade of the 1970s. Partly this was because it was the decade in which I came of age, so to speak: I graduated from high school in 1975 and from college (Miami University of Ohio) in 1980. I’m interested in, among other things, the generational differences between what might be called Baby Boomer Tier One and Tier Two.

Speaking in overly broad generalizations, Tier One were the people who were born between 1946 and about 1952, and were involved in the upheavals we typically associate with the Sixties, such as Vietnam, civil rights, and campus protests. Many of them tended toward optimism in that they believed radical change was possible.

Tier Two were the Boomers such as myself who were born between 1953 and 1960 (1957 for me) and as teens and young adults were far more cynical about the prospects for change. To put it in absurdly simplistic terms: Tier One sang about love and peace and had great soul music; those of us in Tier Two listened to punk rock and rap.

I’m also fascinated by the appearance in the Seventies of a fairly large body of literature, social commentary, and art that lamented the decline of the United States. Traditionally, Americans have been a pretty optimistic people, but there was a sense in the 1970s that the nation already had seen its best days. A good example of a book in this vein would be Christopher Lasch’s *Culture of Narcissism: American Life in an Age of Diminishing Expectations* (1979). The title says it all. A film that exemplifies the despair of the decade would be Robert Altman’s *Nashville* (1975). On the surface *Nashville* is a savage and satirical portrayal of the country and western music industry but actually it’s Altman’s take on America at age 200. Another good film in this regard would be Sidney Lumet’s *Network*.

The Bicentennial seemed to offer an interesting and useful way to take the pulse of American society in the Seventies. There is a voluminous amount of sources available, and much of it could be researched from Chico.

How did the Bicentennial differ from the Centennial celebration a hundred years prior?
The one in 1976 was far less celebratory. The United States was on something of a roll in 1876; the Union had survived civil war; the economy, though punctuated by recurring downturns, overall was growing dramatically. The United States was well on its way to becoming a top-tier world power, a development noted by many observers at home and abroad.

Contrast that with a century later, in the 1970s. The U.S. had lost the war in Vietnam, had a president resign in disgrace in 1974, and was badly divided along racial lines. Economic growth had slowed dramatically as “stagflation,” oil shortages, and deindustrialization crippled the economy. Polls showed that young people, for the first time in decades, believed that they faced a future far less promising. If the Centennial of 1876 was a birthday party for a rising power, the Bicentennial of 1976 was more of a severe midlife crisis.

Do you think overall that the general public supported and rallied around the idea of Bicentennial celebration?

The most interesting and long-lasting things actually came at the grassroots level. The federal government refused to put much funding or even effort into the Bicentennial; frankly, it had very little money because it had bled itself dry trying to wage both the Vietnam War and to establish the Great Society. So, local civic leaders, K-12 teachers and students, patriotic groups, ethnic associations, churches, etc. filled the gap.

Here in Chico, for example, local citizens formed a committee that organized a Bicentennial celebration. It culminated of course on July 4, 1976. The day began with several hundred Chico residents meeting in the downtown City Plaza to sing patriotic songs. Later that morning, several thousand attended a patriotic ceremony, “Let Freedom Ring,” at One-Mile Dam in Bidwell Park. That night some 40,000 people attended a fireworks spectacular at the Municipal Airport. In fact, it was so crowded that the fireworks were followed by a 2 hour traffic jam as people tried to get home. That sort of thing went on in towns and cities all over the nation.

What were some of your biggest/best sources for research?
The most useful sources have been the records of the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Administration. ARBA was a federal agency that didn’t so much plan a celebration as act as a kind of information clearinghouse that kept tabs on local commemorations all over the United States. ARBA records at the National Archives fill several hundred boxes. I’ll never be able to look at each and every document but I have several thousand photocopied pages that provide the foundation for my study of the Bicentennial.

What is the extent of this project, what would you like to see it become?
Right now, I’m working on a book on the Bicentennial. I don’t have a hard and fast timetable for completion, but certainly hope to get it out long before the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution, which will fall on July 4, 2026.

Meet our New Faculty

We were fortunate to be one of the three departments in the HFA College last year to hire tenure-track faculty. In our case we were looking for an East Asian historian to replace the late Weikun Cheng.

After a very competitive search we were delighted to be able to announce that Sandra S. Collins had agreed to join us.
**What is your primary research interest currently?**
I am currently researching the cultural history of interwar Japan, namely looking at the relationship between forms of mass culture and the emerging discourses on the body.

I am also researching a comparative analysis of the Summer Olympic Games held in Asia (Tokyo/Japan, Seoul/Korea and Beijing/China) in order to understand what messages of national and cultural identity were being articulated through the Games and critique how the international media has translated these messages.

**What or who aroused your interest in this field?**
A boring winter afternoon in the stacks of the library of the University of Chicago led me down the magazine aisle. But these were Japanese magazines from the 1930s. Many had very interesting art deco and modernist design covers. One, *Asahi Sports*, mentioned that the 1940 Summer Games were to be held in Tokyo. I didn’t realize this, and this footnote led me to the time period that I return to over and over again, the interwar period of Japan, and the topic that still piques my interest, sports and the Olympic Games.

**What other topics within your general area interest you?**
I like visual culture, such as film, anime, manga and art. I am also interested in understanding how these forms of visual culture are being used at different time periods for different goals.

**What courses do you enjoy teaching the most?**
I like the East Asia survey course, for it’s an opportunity to introduce the long and interesting history of Asia to students. And I find my seminar courses particularly intellectually challenging in that they inspire me to question the historiography of how we, the West, understand “Asia.”

**Are there any courses you would like to develop?**
Yes! I would like to develop courses on Sports and History, Asian Nationalism, War and Memory in the Pacific War, Multiple Modernities and a History of Visual Culture in Asia.

**What aspect of living in Chico has surprised you the most?**
Where did all these birds come from? I love the quick, intense seasons; they are breathtakingly beautiful.

**If there were one thing you could do to improve the quality of life in Chico, what would it be?**
An Asian bookstore or video store—but then I would spend countless hours watching bad, Asian dramas.
In December of 2007, the History Club lost its beloved faculty advisor, Professor Weikun Cheng, in a tragic car accident. Since then, the History Club has joined forces with Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society) to raise enough money through fundraising and generous donations to launch the Weikun Cheng Memorial Film Library. The library, scheduled to launch in Spring 2010, will consist of feature films screened by the History Club, and will be available to all students and faculty.

The fundraising collaboration between Phi Alpha Theta and the History Club marked the beginning of a new era for both student organizations, as the two organizations merged in Fall 2008 to form the Phi Alpha Theta History Club. The two clubs still have unique memberships (History Club remains open to all students, while Phi Alpha Theta’s membership continues to require a certain grade point average), but the clubs have combined their energies to better serve all students interested in History at Chico.

In Fall 2008 the clubs sponsored a field trip to the Abbey of New Clairvaux, a Cistercian-Trappist monastery twenty miles north of Chico. Students learned about monastic living and the reconstruction of an 800-year old chapter house from a Cistercian Monastery in Ovila, Spain. In Fall 2009 the clubs visited the Chinese Temple in Oroville, and explored the historic downtown after a picnic near the waterfront.

Further afield, in Spring 2009 Professor Kate Transchel led students on a guided tour of the Russian District of San Francisco where students visited several Russian Orthodox churches and dined at a Russian restaurant, enjoying everything from borshch to pirozhki. Spasibo, Professor Transchel!
In between field trips, the clubs met monthly to discuss future events, and arrange public film screenings introduced by History Department faculty. Recently, the clubs have partnered with the University Film Series to screen films in the large and luxurious “Little Theatre” (Ayres 106). In Spring 2010 the clubs will screen Tampopo (Dandelion, 1985, Japan, introduced by Professor Sandra Collins), and Return of Martin Guerre (1982, France, introduced by Professor Lawrence Bryant). Please join us at Tampopo on February 16 at 7:30pm, or at Return of Martin Guerre on April 20 at 7:30pm.

Finally, every spring, Phi Alpha Theta sends a delegation of students to the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, and this year’s conference will take place on April 23-24 at San Jose State University. The clubs also publish an annual collection of student essays in The Chico Historian. We hope you’ll pick up a copy the next time you’re in Trinity Hall! As always, we appreciate the support of alumni and friends of History at Chico – please don’t hesitate to be in touch if you’d like more information about supporting our student organizations or being involved in their activities here in the North State.

Advisors: Professors Jessica Clark and Jason Nice

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**Meeting of the California Council for History Education**

**Dale Steiner**

The California Council for History Education (CCHE) held its fourth annual conference September 24-26 at the Hilton Orange County in Costa Mesa. Affiliated with the National Council for History Education, the CCHE is housed in the History Department at CSU Chico. The CCHE was founded in 2006 by Department faculty members Dale Steiner and Jennifer Metherd, who serve as its Executive Director and Chair of the Board of Trustees, respectively.

Attendance at the conference suffered significantly as a result of the economic downturn, but the nearly 120 attendees enjoyed a full program of 31 concurrent sessions – offering classroom-tested lessons presented by teachers and scholarly presentations by university faculty, as well as showcasing the work being accomplished by Teaching American History grants around the state. There were, in addition, three general sessions.

The History Department was well represented on the conference program. Robert Tinkler (“Mr. Lincoln at Two Hundred”) and Bill Campbell (“Revisiting the Colonial Era: Diversity and Diplomacy in Early North America”) made concurrent session presentations, while Tim Sistrunk (“What the Crows and Ravens Will Tell You About American Environmental History”) was the featured speaker on the third day of the conference. In addition, Claudia Beaty, the Department’s Administrative Support Coordinator, took time off from her duties in Chico to oversee the registration counter, Jennifer Metherd introduced the featured speakers in the general sessions, and Dale Steiner hovered in the background, making sure everything ran smoothly.

To learn more about the CCHE, visit its webpage: [http://www.csuchico.edu/cche/](http://www.csuchico.edu/cche/). While there become a member, and make plans to attend next year’s conference, September 24-25, in Sacramento.

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**Faculty News: 2008/2009**

**Lawrence Bryant**

Lawrence M. Bryant, Professor Emeritus, continues to teach two courses per semester in the history department. A collection of his articles will be published this December in Ashgate Publishing’s Variorum Edition Series entitled Ritual, Ceremony and Changing Monarchy in France: 1350-1789. He also has published a review of a modern scholarly
William Campbell
In addition to enjoying my first year of teaching at CSU Chico, I published three articles in the European Journal for American Studies, New York History, and Pennsylvania History. With the assistance of a faculty grant through the Research Foundation Summer Scholars Program at Chico State, the Philips Fund for Native American Research at the American Philosophical Society, and the Scholar-in-Residence program at the David Library for the American Revolution, I was also fortunate to have the chance this past summer to conduct research in Philadelphia, Ottawa, and northern Peru, and deliver a conference paper at the University of Leeds in England.

Jessica H. Clark
In addition to enjoying thoroughly my first year at Chico, I wrote three entries (on fragmentary Roman historians) for the Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Ancient History, forthcoming 2010, and reviewed M. R. Pelikan Pittenger’s Contested Triumphs for the online Bryn Mawr Classical Review. With my co-advisor Jason Nice, I worked with the excellent students of our chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, as they presented their research at the regional conference last April. I spent the summer in Princeton, New Jersey, revising my dissertation for publication – an opportunity made possible through a grant from the CSU Chico, Research Foundation Summer Scholars Program.

Robert C. Cottrell

Laird Easton
In October I participated in a roundtable discussion entitled “Drehscheibe: Transnational Individuals in Berlin and Germany, 1850-1939” at the German Studies Association conference in Washington, DC. I then took the train (Acela Express? Hah!) to New York where I met with my editor. Since then I have been working furiously to put the final touches on the manuscript of Kessler’s diaries, 1880-1918. After that I hope to turn my attention to an edited collection of primary documents entitled Modernism and Its Enemies, 1880-1930. That is, when I am not administering the vast empire that is the History Department.

Susan Green
Susan Green had 8 encyclopedia entries published in the newly released Latino History and Culture. Entries included the following: Chicano; Bert Corona; Ernesto Galarza; MEChA; National Chicano Moratorium; Nationalism; La Opinion; and Freddie Prinze.

Stephen Lewis
After spending spring 2009 teaching at Chico State, I went to Mexico City to resume work on a book project that looks at Mexican Indian policy since the late 1940s. I did some research on the project, presented at a conference, and then participated in three presentations of a book that I edited and helped publish with Margarita Sosa Suárez of Mexico’s National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI).

The book’s title, translated into English, is Rum Monopoly and Alcoholism in the Chiapas Highlands: An “Uncomfortable” Study by Julio de la Fuente, 1954-55. De la Fuente was one of Mexico’s most gifted and combative anthropologists, and the study was commissioned by Mexico’s fledgling National Indigenist Institute (INI). The INI had just opened its pilot Coordinating Center in Chiapas but found its work obstructed by a series of violent confrontations between Tzotzil and Tzeltal Mayas and Chiapas’s illegal statewide alcohol monopoly run by brothers Hernán and Moctezuma Pedrero. This monopoly had thoroughly corrupted the state government and routinely crushed indigenous bootleggers with impunity. De la Fuente’s study exposed the abuses of the monopoly and the complicity of the Chiapas
state government. Its findings were so damning, in fact, that its publication was suppressed for decades. I started working with the document in the late 1990s, and with the support of Sosa and the CDI, the study was finally published after more than fifty years of official silence.

Of the three book presentations, the most interesting was in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, where the descendents of Hernán and Moctezuma Pedrero hold political posts and own hotels and car dealerships. The CDI’s local representative, who has political ambitions, was so worried that the book would offend them that he tried to sabotage the event! In the end, bravery and academic integrity prevailed, and once the local media learned of the book it became the talk of the town. It gave us great satisfaction to bring this important part of local history to light. Until now, nobody had dared to publish anything on the Pedreros’ illegal alcohol monopoly or its abuses.

During the fall semester, I gave classes on Mexican history for the University Study Abroad Consortium in Puebla, Mexico. One of the classes involved field trips to local sites of historic interest, like the pyramid of Cholula, the towns in Morelos where Emiliano Zapata was born, fought, and was killed, and a recently inaugurated museum that commemorates the 1968 student movement that ended in the massacre of Tlatelolco.

**Mike Magliari**

Michael Magliari published a historiographic review essay, ”The Populist Vision: Modern or Traditional?”, for the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* (April 2009). He also published a pair of book reviews in the *Pacific Historical Review* (May 2008 and May 2009) and another in *Technology and Culture* (January 2009). As a practicing public historian in the local community, Magliari continues to serve on the boards of directors of the Bidwell Mansion Association and the Chico Heritage Association. In October 2009, Magliari received the CCHF Award of Distinction from the California Council for the Promotion of History for long-term career contributions to the fields of public history and public history education. The award was made in recognition of Magliari’s role as the founder and director of the History Department’s Certificate in Public History Program, which was established in 1993.

**Jim Matray**

I have just signed a contract with Indiana University Press to contribute a volume on *The Battles of Pork Chop Hill* to its “Twentieth Century Battles” Series, edited by Spencer Tucker. I will be delivering an invited paper on “George C. Marshall and the Korean War” at a “Symposium Commemorating the Career of George C. Marshall” at Virginia Military Institute, Center for Leadership and Ethics, on 24 October 2009. I will be writing a review for the *American Historical Review* on Marc Gallicchio’s *The Scramble for Asia: U.S. Military Power in the Aftermath of the Pacific War*. My essay entitled “The Korean War,” in *U.S. Leadership in Wartime, Vol. II*, ed. Spencer Tucker, ABC-CLIO, 2009 also just was published.

**Jason Nice**

Last September, Jason Nice delivered the third Department of History Inaugural Lecture, “The Prophecy of Merlin on the Via di Monserrato.” Jason regularly teaches Medieval and Early Modern Civilizations along with several courses in British and Early Modern European History. During the past year, he redesigned Medieval and Early Modern Civilizations as a fully online course, which he taught in Summer 2009 and Winter 2010. He is an Academic Senator, Humanities Center board member, chair of the Library Advisory Committee, and co-advisor of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honors Society) and History Club. During the past year, Jason published book reviews in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* and the *Journal of Early Modern History*, and presented papers at the Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, the Renaissance Society of Southern California Annual Meeting, and the Western Society for French History Annual Conference. In March 2009, Pickering & Chatto published Jason’s first book, *Sacred History and National Identity: Comparisons between Early Modern Wales and Brittany*, in their series *Religious Cultures in the Early Modern World*. 
Dale Steiner
Dale Steiner was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of the National Council for History Education, and appointed as chair of its Conference Committee. Steiner has served as Executive Director of the NCHE’s California affiliate, the California Council for History Education, since 2005.

Tim Sistrunk
I was a keynote speaker at the California Council for History Education in September 2009 where I presented “What the Crows and Ravens Will Tell You about American Environmental History.” I also read my essay “The Fish of the Sea in Late Medieval Law,” at the 1st World Congress of Environmental History in Copenhagen in August 2009 and I was the Content Director for an Introduction to American Environmental History, training 4th, 5th, 7th and 11th grade instructors for the North State History and Social Science Project in Red Bluff, June, 2009.

Alum News

Steve J. “Mel” Melvin, Certificate in Public History 2005
After completing the Public History Certificate Program at Chico State I went on to earn an M.A. in Public History from Sacramento State in 2007. While taking classes I worked at JRP Historical Consulting in Davis and have continued employment with this firm, currently as a Staff Historian. I reside Sacramento and in my free time enjoy watching red tail hawks and riding my bicycle across the Yolo Causeway.

Travis M. Menne, BA 2009, Certificate in Public History
1st year student in Public History M.A. program at CSU Sacramento, and doing well. Working as an intern in the Data Management Unit at California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation. Interested in a career at OHP or in the field of Cultural Resource Management as a consultant.

Garret Root, BA 2009, Certificate in Public History
I graduated from Chico State in May 2009 with my BA in History and with the Certificate in Public History. Since graduation I have worked for an environmental consulting firm as a Cultural Resource Technician and I was appointed to the City of Marysville Cemetery Commission. Today I am in my second semester at Sacramento State working on my MA in Public History and I am currently interning at the State of California Office of Historic Preservation. My current historical interests include local, social, California, and architectural history. After graduation I hope to work either as a Historian for the Office of Historic Preservation or in the private sector as a historical consultant.

Contributions

I have been astonished and gratified by the generosity of our alums this last year. Among the things they enabled us to do was to partly subsidize our students attending a Phi Alpha Theta conference this past spring. 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.

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